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FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO

The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

JULY 1997

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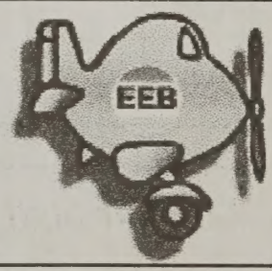

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In this month's issue . . .

Regular & Special Features:

Regional Hamfests and Events 4
Editor's Corner 5
FAR Member Clubs 6
Rules and Regs 7
ARRL Report 11
DX DX DX 14
Traffic Fun 16
Amateur Radio Training 17
Examination Schedules 18
Shack Sales 43

Club Columns:

Anne Arundel Radio Club 21
Arlington Amateur Radio Club 21
Baltimore Amateur Radio Club 23
Capital City Amateur Radio Society 24
Carroll County Amateur Radio Club 24
Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club 25
Columbia Amateur Radio Association 26
Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council 26
Dulles Amateur Radio Group 31
Fauquier Amateur Radio Association 31
Goddard Amateur Radio Club 32
Green Mountain Repeater Association 33
Historical Electronics Museum ARC 34
Loudoun Amateur Radio Group 35
Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Am.Soc. 36
Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club . 37
Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Assoc. . . . 38
Montgomery Amateur Radio Club 39
Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club 40
National Capitol DX Association 41
Northern Virginia FM Association 42
Prince George's Wireless Association 43
Quarter Century Wireless Assn. #20 43
Quarter Century Wireless Assn. #91 44
Quarter Century Wireless Assn. #137 45
Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club . . 46
Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club 47
T-MARC 47
Vienna Wireless Society 48

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Regional Hamfests and Other Events

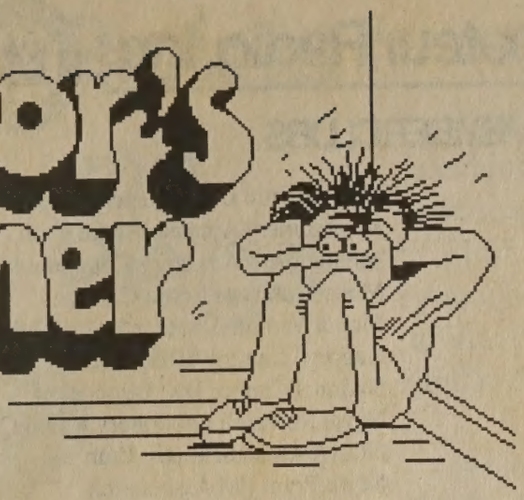
June 1	Ole Virginia Hams, Manassas, VA	703-369-2877
June 7	Champlain Valley ARC, Plattsburgh, NY	518-563-6851
June 8	Long Island Mobile ARC, Bethpage, NY	516-796-2366
June 8	Goodyear ARC, Akron, OH	330-733-5795
June 14	Skyline ARC, Cortland, NY	607-753-0597
June 14	Raritan Valley RC, Dunellen, NJ	908-722-9045
June 15	Frederick ARC, Frederick, MD	301-865-0865
June 21	Hanover Area Hamming Assn., Pleasant Hill, PA	410-239-8451
June 21-22	Georgia State Convention, Atlanta, GA	770-493-8438
June 28-29	Field Day	
July 5	North Carolina Alligators Group, Salisbury, NC	704-279-3391
July 6	Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre, PA	717-288-3532
July 13	Genesee Radio Amateurs, Alexander, NY	716-343-4484
July 13	Mid-Atlantic ARC, Kimberton, PA	610-293-1919
July 26	Western Carolina ARS, Waynesville, NC	704-258-2639
July 27	Baltimore RA Television Society, Timonium, MD	410-467-4634
August 2	High Point ARC, High Point, NC	910-887-3039
August 3	Shenandoah Valley ARC, Berryville, VA	
August 9	Tompkins County ARC, Dryden, NY	607-844-4302
August 16	Roanoke Valley ARC, Roanoke, VA	540-890-6782
August 16-17	York ARC/Keystone VHF Club, York, PA	717-751-9675
August 23	Pioneer Radio Operators Society, Chaffee, NY	716-675-2071
August 24	Yonkers ARC, Yonkers, NY	914-969-6548
September 6	Radio Association of Erie, Erie, PA	814-474-1211
September 6-7	Kentucky State Convention, Louisville, KY	812-294-4905
September 7	Butler County ARA, Butler, PA	412-282-6777
September 13	Saratoga County RACES, Ballston Spa, NY	518-587-2385
September 14	Delaware Valley Radio Assn., Trenton, NJ	609-882-2240
September 20	Western New York Section Conv., Hamburg, NY	716-424-7184
September 20-21	Virginia State Convention, Virginia Beach, VA	757-484-2857
September 28	Great South Bay ARC, Lindenhurst, NY	516-957-0218
September 28	Metro 70cm Network, Yonkers, NY	914-969-1053

(Photo by Murray Green, K3BEQ)

On The Cover

Sally Davies, VE3VJU/W3 and spouse Derrick, N3RQS, stands in front of their Cessna aircraft, callsign N1UY. Both are members of the Green Mountain Repeater Association. See the Green Mountain column in this month's issue for interesting accomplishments of Sally Davies.

Editor's Corner



By John Queen
KAØSEY

I hate antenna covenants. My XYL, Kathy N3PXG, and I live in a Maryland suburb where the home owner's association would gladly send the proverbial Antenna Police after us should they ever suspect any RF gathering device located on our property.

As such, we've always kept a low profile on our antenna farm. I have an AEA Isoloop and a dipole mounted in the attic. Although efficient, they are not the best solution for working DX .

However, in a bit of a bolder move, we also have a G5RV draped between the chimney and two distant trees, along with a Ringo Ranger mounted on the deck. Since our property sits on 4 acres, our nearest neighbor (and only visible one from the backyard) is several hundred feet beyond the tree line to the west.

We've had this arrangement for the past several years without any comment, question, or late night visits from the Antenna Police.

But all that changed when I heard a knock on the door one recent evening. The man standing on my doorstep in a T-shirt and suspenders seemed vaguely familiar, but I couldn't place his face.

"Hi, my name is Ed. I'm your next door neighbor", he said rather matter-of-factually pointing in a westerly direction. Without taking a pause, he queried, "are you a ham radio operator?"

Immediately, the wheels in my head started turning. Either this guy was the Chief of the Antenna Police, or his TV has gone wacko from RF interference, or both.

The way I figured it, I had three choices: I could have denied being a ham and risked embarrassment and a public lynching in the neighborhood; I could have told him that it was his *other* neighbor that he was looking for; or I could have told him the truth. Well, my momma always told me to tell the truth, so I opted for the latter and said in a meek tone, "yes I'm a ham."

"Well, good! So am I!" came the reply. "I just got my license about two weeks ago", he said with a proud grin. Needless to say, I was quite surprised. Here I was, expecting to be hauled away to the Federal Penitentiary for Chronic Antenna Violators, and the man standing at the door turns out to be good 'ol Ed. Next door neighbor, fellow ham, and new friend.

I invited him in an showed him our shack, introduced him to Kathy, and loaded him up with some ham goodies. Kathy and I even awarded him his first two QSL cards as he stood in the backyard with his hand-held while we worked him from our base station.

So remember, the next time someone comes a knockin' on your door asking if you're a ham, it's not necessarily bad news. Welcome aboard Ed!

73's, de KAØSEY, John

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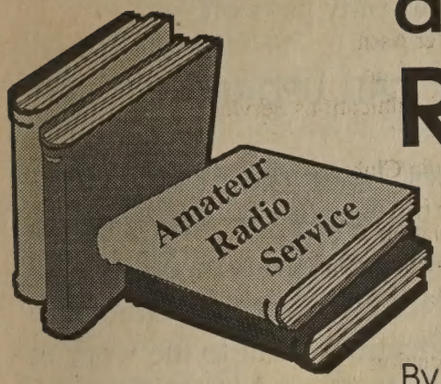
NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held July 9th at the Lee Center, Alexandria, Virginia. Take Capitol Beltway to Exit 1 (US 1 North). North to the second traffic light, left on Gibbon Street to Fayette. Left on Fayette to dead end at Lee Center Parking Lot. The meeting is conducted in the conference room near the main office of the center.

Talk-in on 146.55

Rules and Regs



By Jack Kelleher
W4ZC

ARRL: NO TO VANITY FEE INCREASE

The League is saying no to increased fees for vanity call signs. Last month, the FCC proposed effectively raising the fee for vanity call sign from $30 to $50 for a 10 year license term. The ARRL is asking the Commission to postpone the higher fee until after all four vanity call sign gates have been opened. In comments filed April 23, the ARRL told the FCC that it does not object to the fee but says that it wants all hams to have an opportunity to request a specific call sign under the current fee schedule.

FCC CHAIRMAN RESIGNS: PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES FCC NOMINATIONS

At a press conference May 27, FCC Chairman Reed Hundt announced that he is resigning from the FCC. He will stay a while longer but did not commit to staying until a successor is named. Hundt did not elaborate on his future plans.

Meanwhile, President Clinton has nominated Democrat William Kennard and Republican Harold Furchtgott-Roth to fill vacancies on the five-member Commission. Kennard is now the FCC's general counsel. Furchtgott-Roth—Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's pick for the Republican FCC slot—is now chief economist for the House Commerce Committee. Both men are 40 (ARRL ΠNL V16, #22)

NEW SATELLITE CHALLENGE

The Little LEOs are not the only new service searching for spectrum in the ham bands. One newcomer is the Earth Exploration Satellite Service or EESS that uses synthetic aperture radar for a system of space borne sensors designed to collect information about environmental issues and other similar data.

A variety of frequencies is being sought by the EESS service. And while its not yet clear, this may include the 430 MHz to 440 MHZ ham radio allocation. This is because the amateur and amateur satellite service status in this band is somewhat complex. Allocations vary by I.T.U. Region and even by individual country making a successful spectrum reallocation attack easier than on other ham bands.

So far, studies of sharing possibilities between the amateur and new service has not shown them to be compatible because of the interference level experienced when the two classes of stations are within line of sight.

There is also a type of EESS which would make use of 1215 to 1300 MHZ which is of concern to amateurs. Studies here show compatibility with some types of services but still represent a potential source of interference to amateur operations. (Via ARRL & ARN 1032, 5/29/97)

ITU CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR WRC-97

The International Telecommunications Union Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC 97 has concluded two weeks of deliberations in Geneva, Switzerland. The gathering has resulted in the preparation of a large book of combined technical output from the various I.T.U. study groups as well as the concerns of the member states.

Issues of special interest to radio amateurs included the possibility of additional frequency

Continued next page

allocations to the Mobile Satellite Service operating below 1 GHz.

No specific frequencies have been identified in the report for reallocation, although the report does address a number of sharing possibilities, it makes no mention of sharing with the Amateur Service. In addition, a new concept of broad allocations was introduced. If adopted, this idea would result in individual nations being able to identify and allocate frequencies from a broad pool of service allocations. This concept, being quite new and unstudied, only resulted in a call for future studies by the I.T.U..

Of course, the work of WRC 97 will be guided by specific proposals submitted by individual nations. At present, countries have not yet finalized nor submitted their proposals. Until they do, the amateur community will not be able to accurately assess the threats to our bands for this conference. (Via ARRL, ITU, ARN 1032, others)

OHIO HAMS WIN ANTENNA EXEMPTION (TNX ARN 1029)

Hams in Ohio are on the winning side of a new proposed state wide plan to regulate antenna structures. The mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission, a group of representatives from utility companies, telecommunications providers, and government officials have prepared a document entitled, "Model wireless telecommunications ordinances". This model document will serve as a guide for all of Ohio's local governments to establish local ordinances pertaining to cellular towers.

Amateur radio is totally missing from this document. In essence, amateur radio is deemed completely separate from the general realm of wireless telecommunications facilities. In this case, amateur towers are not considered towers, but they are classified as amateur radio operators equipment.

A lot of the success in gaining an exclusion for ham radio goes to Paul Krug, N2NS who is the ARRL Ohio State Government Liaison. The success of Ohio hams in gaining a blanket exemption to the proposed tower controls proves that advance planning really pays off.

VANITY CALL UPDATE

Some late news from the FCC on the processing of vanity call signs. On May 21st the FCC says that it processed requests received from April 4th to May 14th. 456 vanity calls were granted and 463 applications went to the work in progress pile. (Via FCC, ARN 1932))

FCC ISSUES NEW FORM 610; OLD VERSIONS STILL VALID

The FCC has just released a new Form 610, dated March 1997, that—among other minor changes—now includes a space for your Internet address. The new form is available via the FCC's Internet site (http://www.fcc.gov) and via the FCC's fax-on-demand service (202-418-0177; to obtain Form 610, the form number to request is "000610;" Form 610A is "006101;" Form 610B is "006102;" and Form 610V is "006108." Form 159, of interest to some vanity filers, is "000159").

The form is much the same as the previous Form 610, dated March, 1995, except that item 3A asking for the applicant's "Internet Address" is included on the same line as the street address. The environmental impact question, formerly item 6, has instead become a statement in the applicant certification section where the applicant certifies that "the construction of the station would not be an action which is likely to have a significant environmental effect (see the Commission's Rules 47 CFR Sections 1.1301-1.1319 and 97.13a)." The former item 7 has become item 6 on the new Form 610.

According to staff members at the Gettysburg FCC office, the FCC will continue to accept any of the three Forms 610 (dated November 1993, March 1995 and March 1997) until further notice.

Continued next page

REVISED VANITY CALL SIGN ELECTRONIC APPLICATION AVAILABLE

On May 19, 1997, a revised version of the electronic Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request form (FCC Form 610-V) was made available on the Internet at http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html. Under "Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign System" choose "Interactive Vanity Call Sign Application." This version allows a user to file multiple applications using one FCC Form 159 (Remittance Advice), thus permitting several applicants to file vanity applications at the same time and combine their fee payments. The fee will calculate and preprint on the FCC Form 159, depending on the number of applications submitted. Detailed instructions are available by clicking on the item number on the Internet form. Previously, applicants had to complete a separate FCC Form 159 for each application submitted electronically.

Electronic payment is not yet available, and applicants must mail a completed FCC Form 159 with payment to FCC, Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5994, immediately after submitting any electronic application(s).

For technical assistance, contact the FCC Technical Support Group, 202-414-1250. For general questions regarding the application or fee, call the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Consumer Assistance staff, 800-322-1117.—FCC.

APPLE TAKES EXCEPTION TO LEAGUE'S 5-GHz STAND

Apple Computer does not like a filing by the ARRL opposing Apple's efforts to deploy so-called Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure or UN2 devices in the 5 GHz range.

Earlier this year, the FCC made available 5.15 to 5.35 and 5.725 to 5.825 GHz to these devices under Part 15 of its rules. The spectrum involved includes part of a secondary Amateur Radio allocation. So the ARRL filed comments opposing Apple's requests insofar as they would increase the potential for interference to amateur operations. Three petitions for reconsideration were filed by various industry groups, but Apple's was the only one that concerned the amateur allocation. Apple said the League's objections reflect the League's general opposition to any shared use of Amateur Radio Service frequencies rather than the presence of any real threat to Amateur Service operations posed by Apple's proposal. Apple went on to say that the ARRL failed to show that non-spread spectrum UN2 transmitters using highly directional antennas pose any greater interference threat to hams than do spread spectrum transmitters using highly directional antennas.

As previously reported the FCC relaxed the restrictions on the use of directional antennas in conjunction with spread spectrum devices on April 3rd. Apple is demanding that the FCC to treat UN2 directional antennas the same way. (Via ARRL AND ARN)

ISRAELI LICENSING CHANGES

From overseas, Israel says it has changed its Amateur Radio examination structure from a single exam to separate Morse code and an integrated theory and regulations testing. And an examinee can now take one or both of the parts of the exams, and only the incomplete or failed part need be taken at a future examination date. In the past, if one part was failed, the entire examination had to be re-taken.

Changes also to the Israeli Grade B General license and the VHF-UHF code-free license. There the theory and regulations examinations have been integrated to be the same for both license classes. Now, if an applicant passes the "Technical" class exams and at a later date takes the 12 word per minute code test, he will receive the Grade B license.

Old Grade D license holders wishing to become Grade B's will be forced to take a code test. They will also be required to answer three questions in

theory and three more in regulations to complete the new requirements. (Via IARC)

RAC TO HELP RUN HAM RADIO IN CANADA

The Canadian Government has told Board members of that nation's ham radio society, Radio Amateurs Canada, to be ready to assume more responsibility in regulating ham radio in that nation. Industry Canada Assistant Deputy Minister Michael Binder has promised to move forward on the joint effort to delegate the administration of the Amateur Radio Service in Canada. This, to a nongovernmental service company affiliated with the national society. The effort was underway when it was halted earlier this year awaiting the formation of a long term funding method by Industry Canada. Binder now says that he will phase in as many aspects of the plan as possible over the next several years. (Via Radio Amateur Canada)

SKYWARN CONTROVERSY

Amateur Radio is in the middle of a growing controversy in Alabama. Huntsville television station WAAY says it will launch its own severe weather spotter network using Amateur Radio Operators and frequencies. Some hams consider the stations plans to be a violation of FCC rules.

The Huntsville television market, like others, is competitive. WAAY has what it touts as the most powerful Doppler radar in north Alabama's Tennessee Valley. But in March, Channel 31 announced formation of its own amateur radio storm spotter network. Local hams started getting letters encouraging them to join. The invitations were signed by station employee Lynda Osmer, WB4TJE. The plan is not going over well with radio amateurs. They believe the stations network would be a violation of FCC rules prohibiting commercial use of amateur frequencies.

That's a 10 county organized network of amateur spotters assisting National Weather Service and emergency management personnel. Free says Channel 31's plans put amateurs in a difficult position. The station provides space for amateur repeaters on its tower. And its General Manager, M.D. Smith, is a ham himself, WA4DXP.

Other amateurs involved in emergency communications question the stations motives. "I don't believe they really have public service as their ultimate goal." KL7Q (Tom Moore, KL7Q, Alabama's ARRL Section Manager ."Number one, I think its not in the best interest of the amateur radio service to be involved with any commercial organization. Secondly I don't believe that they really have the interest of the public in mind in comparison to the ratings that they hope to achieve."

So far, Channel 31's spotter network hasn't been heard on the air. Again, from North Alabama Skywarns Rex Free, KN4CI: "Its odd, in that every intent has been made on its net, but no one has heard the net on yet. So no violation has been made. I refer it to an example that says I'm going to see if I can get away with robbing this bank. I tell everybody else, but I never rob the bank." KN4CI

In her letter to hams, Lynda Osmer says reports from the stations network will be summarized for on-air use as a public service. Again, Section Manager Tom Moore, KL7Q: "If they're doin' it as a public service, then why haven't they contacted the NA and the National Weather Service to coordinate with them?"

How many hams are actually joining the new network is not clear. Station manager M. D. Smith is not returning calls. However, In a March 18th letter to the Alabama Section Emergency Coordinator, Station Manager M.D. Smith says he is fully aware of FCC rules and regulations. Smith says the station does not intend to violate any current rules now in effect from the FCC.

In the meantime, Rex Free says North Alabama Skywarn will continue operations as usual. (tnx ARN 1030)

American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford, W4HU

The Purpose of the ARRL Letter is to provide the essential news of interest to active, organizationally minded radio amateurs faster than it can be disseminated by our official Journal, QST. We strive to be fast, accurate and readable in our reporting. Material from The ARRL Letter may be reproduced in whole or in part, in any form, including photo reproduction and electronic data banks, provided that credit is given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.

NEW HAM TOYS DEBUT AT DAYTON HAMVENTION 1997

It most definitely did not rain during the Dayton Hamvention! An upbeat crowd reveled in three days of beautiful spring weather May 16, 17 and 18 at the Hamvention—the world's largest annual ham radio gathering. Hamvention attended Dayton this year, and many vendors reported brisk sales (some even ran out of available stock and had to have new units rushed to Dayton), reflecting an overall brighter outlook within the hobby.

One of the most intriguing pieces of gear that attracted the curious came from Kachina, a company largely unknown to most hams. The Kachina 505DSP computer-controlled HF transceiver, which its manufacturer calls "a new approach to Amateur Radio," has no knobs, buttons or meters—nor a front panel for that matter. It's a compact box you interface with and control via a Windows-capable PC! Kachina, a US firm based in Arizona, has been well known in commercial radio circles for more than two decades. Under development for almost three years, the 505DSP offers 100 W output on all MF and HF bands and DSP filtering in the second 40-kHz IF. (The only crystal filter is a six-pole crystal "roofing" filter in the front end that has a 20-kHz bandwidth. All other receive filtering is done using DSP techniques. Operator control is via the PC mouse and keyboard using on-screen icons and pull-down menus. A microphone, key or keyer paddle plug into a panel that fits into a standard hard-drive or CD-ROM bay on your PC. The Kachina 505DSP will sell for just under $2000 (not including the PC). It's scheduled to be available in July.

Ten-Tec, Collins and ICOM also demonstrated panel-less DSP PC-controlled HF receivers at the Hamvention.

Tiny hand-held VHF, UHF and dual-band H-Ts captured the imagination of the Dayton crowd. Yaesu, Alinco and Standard debuted diminutive H-Ts. Yaesu describes its new VX-1R as the "world's smallest dual-band hand-held with wide receiver coverage." It offers 500 mW output (or 1 W with external power), a rechargeable lithium ion battery, and 290 memories. It will be available July 1. Alinco debuted its DJ-S11T economically priced, pocket-sized 2-meter H-T—a companion to its DJ-S41T for 440 MHz. Pending FCC approvals, Alinco also hopes to have its "revolutionary" DJ-C1 2-meter "micro-transceiver" on the market later this year. The super-thin transceiver is only slightly larger than a credit card and about as thick as a typical pocket calculator. Both the DJ-S41T and the DJ-C1 put out about 300 mW. (A DJ-C4 for 70 cm also is in the offing.) Standard introduced its flexible and very compact C510 dual-band hand-held that provides 1 W output by itself and up to 50-W output when coupled with an optional accessory unit.

Potential buyers and the just-plain curious also got their first look at Yaesu's new FT-920 transceiver that covers HF and six meters. The 100-W transceiver incorporates DSP features on both receive and transmit.

Continued next page

Drake returned to the Amateur Radio market with the TR270, a desktop two-meter FM transceiver that includes a built-in AC power supple and independent, dual-band receive capability in the 420 to 470 MHz and 136 to 174 MHz ranges. The Drake TR270 puts out 25 W.

Ham radio manufacturers said they sensed greater optimism about the hobby among those that stopped by, coupled with an upswing of interest in HF transceivers. As Chip Margelli, KJ7A, of Yaesu put it: "Overall, its was a tremendous weekend which exceeded our most lavish expectations." Doug Wynn, KB6YZD, of Alinco, also was ecstatic. "We were very impressed with the size of the crowd and the interest they showed in our products," he said. Dayton Hamvention 1998 is May 15-17.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MENDELSOHN DEFENDS LEAGUE IN DAYTON DEBATE

ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, debated former HR Report editor Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, as part of a "ham radio town meeting" broadcast live via the internet as part of the Dayton Hamvention. The Saturday afternoon face-off was the first of four during a forum addressing the future of ham radio. Ham radio & More radio host Len Winkler, KB7LPW, was the moderator.

Responding to the question, "Is the ARRL doing all it can to promote the future of ham radio?" Schroeder—who made it clear he was a League member and critic and not a League basher—asserted that the League wasn't doing enough to fend off challenges to our bands and has not been effective in assimilating no-code licensees and newcomers to the hobby.

Mendelsohn assured the gathering of some 150 onlookers that the ARRL was working—sometimes quietly and behind-the-scenes—to "educate those in Congress who would sell our frequencies" about ham radio and its contribution. Focusing specifically on the Little LEOs issue, Mendelsohn said ARRL representatives were, at that moment, in Geneva, Switzerland, "promoting the idea that [low-Earth-orbiting satellites] are a good idea for some other band," while other League efforts promote the hobby's public service contribution to local decision makers.

Mendelsohn said the League is "only the sum of the input of its members," and he encouraged individual hams to approach newcomers and "show them the magic" of ham radio. "It's called Elmering—one on one," he said. Mendelsohn explained that a system is in place to alert section managers and club coordinators to all newly licensed individuals in each section, but he said that Headquarters has not gone out and directly sought newcomers. "one hundred people in Newington cannot do what 172,000 members can do," he said.

When Windler took questions from the audience, Schroeder supported a call from one ham for direct membership election of the ARRL's president. Mendelsohn declined to offer an opinion on the suggestion, but pointed out that it would require action by the League's Board of Directors and a change in the by-laws. Long-time League member Larry Roll, K3LT, urged those on hand to support the League and to get involved. "It's the organization we have. We must steer it," he said.

Mendelsohn concluded that the League was "doing all that it can, within financial constraints, to promote the future of ham radio," while Schroeder maintained that there were "still a few areas that need improvement."

Other issues debated during the two-hour long forum included whether to set aside band segments where contesting would be banned, whether the Internet was killing ham radio, and whether the CW requirement for HF privileges should be abolished. The forum Internet broadcast was produced by Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF (who also participated in one debate). TAPR's Greg Jones, WD5IVD, arranged the Internet hookup.

Continued next page

"FIRE THAT ROCKET NOW!" ROCKOON LAUNCHED WITH JUST SECONDS TO SPARE

A team of space enthusiasts that includes several hams managed to launch a rocket bearing ATV and APRS systems from a high-altitude balloon off the coast of North Carolina on May 11. But the launch of the so-called "rockoon almost didn't happen, according to Bill Brown, WB8ELK, of the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society—a chapter of the National Space Society. When it arrived at the launch site in Hamstead, North Carolina in the early morning hours on May 11, it was frosty and still. "Perfect conditions for a balloon flight!" Brown said. The first glitch occurred when the team found two nearly empty tanks in its helium supply. Concerned they would not have enough to lift the rocket payload, team members scoured Hamstead and nearby Topsail Beach and finally were able to purchase two tanks from a local supermarket that used them to fill party balloons. "This saved the day," Brown said. The team managed to get the balloon and rocket payload off the ground with just five minutes left before its FAA launch window closed.

Brown said the team got "spectacular color video" from the balloon, but the GPS telemetry—downlinked via packet radio in APRS format—started to get weak after the rockoon topped 23,000 feet. "The signal faded completely into the noise and were unable to record any more usable position and altitude reports from that point onward," Brown said. "We think that the internal antenna for the packet transmitter put most of the radio signal up and down but very little signal made it towards the horizon as the payload headed out nearly 120 miles out over the Atlantic."

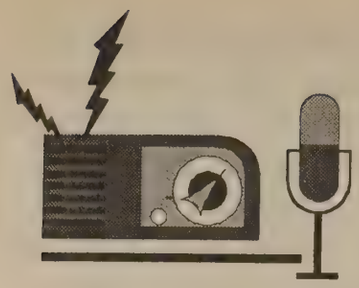
Almost an hour and a half into the balloon launch, the team estimated the balloon's altitude to be around 60,000 feet. This meant the barometric rocket safety switches would be armed and the rocket could be fired at any time, although the team had hoped to reach at least 100,000 feet before launching. Then, Brown reports, near disaster! "I happened to be looking at the video of the balloon envelope and thought that the balloon looked pretty full. Just then, one of the seams tore wide open, dumped out all of the helium and the balloon just folded up into a long streamer of plastic!"

"Fire that rocket now!" Brown says he shouted to Ed Myszka, KE4ROC, as the rocket and gondola dropped rapidly toward the ocean below. The team had just over one minute to issue the fire command before the safety switch disarmed the rocket at 49,000 feet.

As Brown related: "Ed keyed down the 2-meter transmitter and anxiously entered the firing code via touchtones. Nothing happened! He tried another time. Nothing!" With seconds left, Myszka tried a third time. "All of a sudden there was a bright flash and a cloud of smoke and the rocket leaped out of the gondola and off towards space," Brown said. "Bits of plastic tape and the plastic covering shredded off and fluttered past the camera view as the gondola continued its rapid descent." Miraculously, the balloon camera survived the rocket exhaust blast and continued to work flawlessly until the gondola splashed into the Atlantic.

Brown said the team was treated to flashes of video from the rocket for about 30 seconds, "showing tantalizing views of the curve of the Earth." The rocket's spin caused the ATV signal to flutter in and out and make it difficult to lock onto a good picture. The rocket and the balloon gondola ended up in the Atlantic, but lacking GPS signals, the team was unable to recover them.

Brown estimated that the rocket reached a peak altitude of 38 miles—not quite "space" as the team had hoped (space is defined as 51 nautical miles in altitude). "We did set several records," Brown said. "The first amateur launch of a rockoon (rocket launched from a balloon), the highest launch of a hybrid rocket (hybrid referring to the nitrous oxide/asphalt fuel combination), and the highest flying hybrid rocket to date."



DX DX DX

By John Kanode, N4MM

DX ACTIVITIES AT THE 1997 DAYTON HAMVENTION

For many decades, there has been lots of programs and activities that interest DXers at the Dayton Hamvention. Many hundreds of DXers attend the Hamvention in order to attend these programs. On Friday evening, the Southwest Ohio DX Association sponsors the DX Dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This was the twelfth year for the DX dinner. The attendance this year was about 550.

The main program this year was the VKØIR Heard Island DXpedition. Bob, KK6EK gave an interesting program on the DXpedition, which resulted in over 80,000 QSOs. Most of the VKØIR team was present at the dinner. The Southwest Ohio DX Association voted that the VKØIR was the DXpedition of the year and presented them with a very nice plaque. Ron Wright, ZL1AMO was selected as the DXpeditioner of the year.

Many nice prizes were given away at the DX dinner, including an ICOM 706. It was announced at the dinner that Robert Vallio, W6RGG; Robert Ferrero, W6RJ and Frank Schwab, W80K were inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. I was lucky again this year and got a table in the front row. After the dinner, the hospitality suites in the hotel became active and crowded.

On Friday, there is a forum on antenna design, which is attended by many DXers. The DX Forum was Saturday afternoon and on the program was the ZL8RI, Kermadec Islands DX Adventure, XZ1N operation by K7WX, the Heard Island DXpedition by KK6EK and the VKØIR crew, Roger Burt gave a presentation on his recent tour of European DX and Contest Stations and DL7IO and DL7IQ presented the recent Congo operation, TN2U/TN4M. One thing was missing this year was the DXCC/DXAC report by Bill, K5FUV and the DXAC Chairman. I am not sure why this was not included but many at the Hamvention were disappointed that this important discussion session was left out of the program. I hope it will be put back into the program in 1998. This was the first year that the Dayton Hamvention was an ARRL approved hamfest and of course the 2000 ARRL National Convention will be held in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention.

UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

Canada Day Contest	July 1, 1997
IARU HF World Champ.	July12-13, 1997
South Pacific 160 Meter	July 19, 1997
Colombian Independence Day	July 19, 1997
AGCW QRP Summer Contest	July 19-20, 1997
Seanet Contest CW	July 19-20, 1997
IOTA Contest	July 26-27, 1997

The 3CØDX Annobon DXpedition has been postponed until October of 1997. There were problems getting visas for some of the operators. More info on this DXpedition when available.

The Ocean DX Group announces that there will be a DXpedition to Willis Island and other IOTA Coral Sea Islands in September of 1997. They plan to depart on September 9, 1997 and set up six stations on Willis Island. They will also operate 6 Meters. All Yaesu transceivers and amplifiers will be used. After the Willis operation, they plan to go to Holmes Reef. Other Islands may be activated. More info will be provided as the date gets closer.

The RSGB 1997 International HF and IOTA Convention September 26-28, 1997. For more info, contact Fay Huxley or Marcia Brimson at RSGB HQ.

The 5W (Western Samoa) QSL Service is being

terminated immediately. There are only four active resident SW stations and Phil Williams, 5WlAU has been operating the bureau from his own pocket since 1971. If you need a QSL from 5W, it must go direct to the station. 5WØ are issued to visitors and should go to the home call of the operator or his QSL manager.

Charles, S92SS and Leslie, S92YL are leaving Sao Tome and after some leave and training in the US, will head for Kavala, Greece where Charles will become the Transmitter Plant Supervisor for the Voice of America Relay Station. His tour will last for four years. The QSL route for his past operations, A22AA, S92SS and S92YL and the new SVØ? call go to Charles/Leslie Lewis, American Embassy Athens, Greece Relay Station (KAV), PSC 108 Box 39, APO, AE 09842.

Al Hernandez, K3VN has been named DXer of the year by the New Orleans International DX Convention. He will be honored at the 6th Annual Convention in New Orleans on August 22-23, 1997. He has supported and participated in many DXpeditions, including ZL8RI and VKØIR.

Chris, Z58IR has left Marion Island. He had made over 18,000 QSO's and gave Marion Island to many DXers on several bands. Activity from this rare DX spot comes and goes. If you worked ZS8IR, QSL's go to ZS6EZ.

One item that I purchased at the Dayton Hamvention was the new 1997 IOTA book. The RSGB had a booth and were selling various RSGB publications.

I had the opportunity to talk to Roger, G3KMA about the IOTA program. It was a very interesting program but the application procedures are very cumbersome. One has to bundle up hundreds of QSLs and send them to some remote checkpoint and hope the mail service does not lose them. With the cost of the awards and the cost of sending large volumes of QSL back and forth, many just lose interest in the program before they start. It would be nice to IOTA checkers at some of the major Amateur Radio conventions where one could hand carry the cards, get them checked and returned. This is being done in DXCC. For some reason, the IOTA administrators say that it is too complicated to do this. One other thing that would help is to have checkpoints in the highly populated areas of the country, where one could hand deliver QSL cards to be checked. Having checkpoints in rural South Carolina does not make sense.

Winchester Hamfest and Computer Show
Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O.Box 139
WINCHESTER, Va. 22604

Virginia:[Winchester]- Aug. 3rd. Set up 6:00 am. Clarke Co. Fairgrounds in Berryville, Va. 47th Annual Winchester Hamfest and Computer Show sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. ARRL approved hamfest, VE exams. Adm. $5 tailgaters additional $7 per space. Ham • egg breakfast and Beef or Chicken Barbeque lunch. Ti 146.22-82 W4ARC. Call (540) 955-1745 Email http://www.w3ic.com/inet/svarc/hamfest.

Traffic Fun

By Geri Sweeny, N4GHI

This summer the Boy Scouts will hold another National BBA Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill (near Fredricksburg, VA). As usual, amateur radio will be there. The boys will have a chance to learn about, get a license, and send messages home. When handling such messages (whether relaying and/or delivering), you know you are helping your community. You even have a chance to reply to the messages. To be prepared to help, listen to one of our 3 Local (2-meter) nets (Northern Virginia, Washington DC, and Baltimore). Or, tune in one of the 9 Section Level nets in Virginia and MD/DC.

With the event of 2 meter packet and now e-mail, less traffic seems to be being sent on traffic nets. And, yet, if we want stations to be in place, and prepared, for emergencies, they need traffic to keep them happy. Thus, if each person reading this would send one message to a relative, friend, etc., you could enhance the entire system. You can request replies, if you wish. It's certainly an unusual way to contact someone on their birthday, etc. It doesn't conflict with other modes of communication, since you keep your message very short. It is a fine way to let someone know you are thinking of them.

June 1 started our hurricane season. Another reason to be prepared by knowing where to find a net, and/or who to give a message to send it.

NVTN: KR4MU, George, relieved Bill, N4DCC, as net manager several months ago. Bill has contributed 5 outstanding years as the NVTN net manager. Under his leadership, traffic training was held, new stations were encouraged, a working relationship with the weather service was begun, and an annual picnic initiated. The NVTN now is one of the premiere nets in the country. George, has the dedication, know-how, and enthusiasm to keep the NVTN going at peak performance. Our thanks to both Bill and George for their dedication to traffic handling.

Let me know of any traffic hapenings in your area. It's nice getting to know folks, and we can't all attend hamfest traffic meetings.

BTN	(Balt.TfcNet)	6:30 pm	146.67
NVTN	(NoVaTfcNet)	7:30 pm	147.30
DCTN	(DCTfcNet)	8:00 pm	147.36
VTN	(VaTfcNet)	1:00 pm	3907
MEPN	(MdEmerPhoneNet)	6:00 pm	3920
VSBN	(VaSideBandNet)	6:00 pm	3947
VNE	(VaNetEarly)	7:00 pm	3680
MDD	(MdDelaware)	7:00 pm	3643
MSN	(MdSlowNet)	7:30 pm	3717
VNL	(VaNetLate)	10:00 pm	3680
MDD	(MdDe)	10:00 pm	3643
VLN	(VaLateNet)	10:15 pm	3947

AUTO CALL

...submissions are due the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. Submit all Club Columns, Shack Sales, and commercial advertising copy to:

John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine
755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736

Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A
6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310
(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Mike Callaham NW3V	(703) 241-5618
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
BRATS (Baltimore)	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	Essex Community College	(410) 780-6854
Dulles ARG	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Fauquier ARC	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(540) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3YD	(301) 498-6293
Mid-Atlantic DX Assn.	Michael Vaia, WB8VBW	(301) 738-3861
Madras	Larry Ziecheck, N3GKZ	(301) 984-6113
MD Mobileers ARC	Bruce Colburn AA3KR	(410) 437-1891
Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(540) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Godfrey Miller N8GM	(540) 877-2607
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(540) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(301) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM	(703) 691-2719
Woodbridge Wireless	Jim Duffey WD4AIR	(703) 491-3170

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

Washington, DC

Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A
6111 Burnett St.
Alexandria, VA, 22310
(703) 971-3905

* Effective July 1, 1997, the Novice and Technician written exam question pools (Elements 2 and 3a) will change. Five questions on RF safety will be added to each exam. All books and study materials not based on these new question pools will be obsolete after that date. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

* Effective January 1, 1997, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is $6.26.

* Copies of the complete (as of date) 1997 VEC Exam schedule from the *Auto Call* database are available. To obtain a copy, please send a large, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage to cover 10 letter-size pages along with $2.00 to cover copying costs to WZ4A at the above address.

1997 Schedule of Examinations

July 6 (Sunday)	**Landover, MD** - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
	Elkins, WV - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506

July 12 (Saturday)	**Alexandria, VA** - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

July 13 (Sunday)	**Location TBA** - Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Association (ARRL VEC) Pre- Registration Desirable, Walk-In 9 - 10 AM during hamfest Contact the club voice BBS: 301-473-4151 box 110 or E-Mail "veteam@aol.com"
July 19 (Sunday)	**Laurel, MD** - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC) Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488
July 26 (Saturday)	**Fredericksburg, VA** - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-7076
July 27 (Sunday)	**Hagerstown, MD** - Antietam Radio Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Recommended Contact: Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132 before 9 PM
August 3 (Sunday)	**Berryville, VA** - Shenandoan Valley ARC (Hamfest) (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
August 9 (Saturday)	**Alexandria, VA** - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society

P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

http://www.smart.net/~brats

brats@smart.net

For Release: March 15, 1997

Contact: Bob Koblish, 410-467-4634

BRATS Announces Maryland Hamfest and Computerfest July 27th

The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS) will hold its annual Maryland Hamfest and Computerfest on Sunday, July 27, 1997, at the Timonium Fairgrounds. The event features a 500-space outdoor electronics flea market (or "tailgating") area and two buildings with 400 indoor vendor spaces.

A wide range of ham radio and computer equipment will be offered, including Amateur Radio transmitters, receivers, and antennas; personal computers; printers, modems, disk drives, and other peripherals; surplus military and commercial electronics; test equipment; and a diverse assortment of radio and computer parts, supplies, and accessories.

Amateur Radio license exams will be given at 9:00 AM only; check-in is at 8:30. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call after 6:00 PM: John Creel at (301) 572-5124.

Vendors can set up beginning at 2 PM Saturday.
The tailgating /flea market area opens at 6 AM Sunday. Indoor vendors open at 8 AM.
The event will be held rain or shine. The Fairgrounds is accessable to the handicapped.

$5 per adult; children under 12 free. Outdoor tailgating spaces are $7 each.

To get to the Timonium Fairgrounds, take I-695 (the Baltimore Beltway) to Exit 24 (I-83 North). From I-83, take Exit 17 (Padonia Road) East, then turn right at the 3rd. traffic light onto York Road. Continue south on York Road to the Fairgrounds entrance.

You can also take the MTA Light Rail to the Timonium Park & Ride stop, or park in the Timonium Park & Ride lot on Deerco Road; there's a Fairground entrance at the Light Rail station.

Talk-in will be available on the 147.03+ and 224.96- repeaters. Indoor vendor tables are still available. Call for information.

For information, see our Web page at http://www.smart.net/~brats; e-mail brats@smart.net; call or fax (410) 467-4634; or write BRATS Hamfest, PO Box 5915, Baltimore, Maryland / 21282-5915.

BRATS is a non-profit organization benefiting the Baltimore and amateur radio communities through emergency communications, public service, education, and experimentation All hamfest proceeds further those goals.

AARC Anne Arundel Radio Club

Meetings: 8 PM 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge & Wayson Roads off MD Rt. 214 near Annapolis.
On the air: 2030 Thursdays when there is no club meeting on 147.705/105. Tuesdays at 2030 local time on 28.410. Wednesdays at 2000 on 444.400. The Chesapeake Weather & Traffic Net on 147.705/105 at 1100 and 1500 every weekend day and public holiday from April 1 to November 15. MSN (Maryland Slow Net) every evening at 1930 on 3.7170 MHz.
Address: P.O. Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035.
Information: Margaret (Holly) Bevan, 410-923-0229.

At the May 21st program meeting, Club President Bruce Strackbein/KE3PT gave an interesting and informative talk on transmission testing and the history of radio direction finding.

The hamfest held May 3rd on Kent Island, which AARC co-sponsored with the Mobileers, was great fun for all and was considered a success in spite of the rain. The QLF Contest (QSO with the left foot) provided much merriment to attendees. Mike Strackbein, 12-year-old son of KE3PT and N3ZBZ, won the QLF Grand Prize. Mike was in this year's Novice Class. He sent 7 1/2 WPM with only 1 error. His mother Kathy/N3ZBZ was also in the Novice Class. She came in a close second with the same time and only 2 errors.

A half dozen club members, coordinated by Dave Evartt/N6TAU, furnished communications for the annual Bay Bridge Run on May 4th. There were approximately 3500 entrants. The Run immediately precedes the Bay Bridge Walk. The eastbound span of the bridge, one of the world's ten longest bridges, is closed to automobile traffic during the run and the walk.

On Sunday May 18th seven club volunteers, coordinated by "Stan" Stanek/N3PPJ, provided communication support at the SPCA's sixth annual "Walk for the Animals" in scenic Quiet Waters Park, 1815 Bay Ridge Avenue, in Annapolis. Our members also helped in moving supplies from a central point or other checkpoints to the site where they were needed. The Walk Coordinator was deeply appreciative of our efforts.

At the clubhouse on May 10th, Charles Tiemeyer/W3RMD, Oscar Ramsey\NV3G and Robert Kammer/N3POX gave 10 tests to 6 persons. Seven tests were passed with 4 upgrades. Other members of the team included Bob Israel/WC3I, Harlan Ray III/AA3FE, Bettye Tiemeyer/K3VRZ and Holly Bevan, N3MB. The next testing session at the clubhouse will be on July 12th.

Congratulations to Kelly Fast/N3XUJ who has upgraded to Extra.

73, Holly/N3MB

Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., Red Cross building, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nonmembers welcome!
Net: Tuesdays (except meeting nights), 7:30 P.M., 144.87/145.47 Mhz FM.
Information: Mike Callaham, NW3V @ WA3TAI, callaham@CapAccess.org, (703) 241-5618.
LLBBS: Area 1 of Beachcomber Joe's BBS (703) 243-0024.
WWW: http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/4306/

The Arlington Amateur Radio Club met at the Arlington County American Red Cross Chapter

house on May 20, 1997.

Seven members and two guests (Kit Ryan, KF4PJW, a brand new ham who received his Tech license two months ago. Ann Bennett, WB0TEG was licensed in 1975, she was active in RACES in Nebraska, before moving to Arlington.) were present.

Alan, KD4FRK, reported on the Arlington County American Red Cross, Run To the Rescue, 10 kilometer race and 2 mile fun walk, beginning at the Crystal City Water Park, on May 18th. Over 1300 runners and walkers participated.

The Arlington ARC was credited for contributing between "$1,000 and $2,499" in the CROSSROADS. Actually, our donation was the primary communications support for this large runner event. We provided a Net Control, radio for the Race Director Jim Shelton, radios/operators at each of the "mile posts" (in a 10k race!), and a radio/operator on the "supply vehicle". The "mile posts" operators kept the Race Director informed when the first male, first female and last runner passed their post.

Arlington ARC members: Alan, KD4FRK: Tom, N4BYF; Mike, NW3V; George, KR4MU and Walt, KT4EL, along with Tom, W4LMW; Mike, N3PDK; Kata, KE4CYF; Mary, KA1KWP; and, Frances, KD4ASW provided the operators and equipment.

Special thanks to the Arlington KI4MB repeater on 145.47 MHz, for it's flawless operation. George, KR4MU reported on the Foundation for Amateur Radio meeting on May 14th.

Mike, NW3V commented that no one, except NCS checked-in to the Arlington County Net on 144.47 MHz, last Tuesday (May 13th), at 7:30 pm Jack, WA4FXX presented a sample of a Post Card of the old Navy Radio Towers, that he is working up as a QSL card for the club and individual members. Although the original card may have been copyrighted, is suspected that the photograph was an "Official US Navy Photograph" and not subjected to copyright laws. In any case, the card was neat and most agreed that it will make first-class QSL card.

Tom, N4BYF reported that he and Walt, KT4EL had made a preliminary inspection of the emergency generator, in preparation of a full scale service. After filling the battery, the engine fired and ran nicely. The generator did not kick in, but this may have been due to the fact that we did not have an adequate load on it. One other serious deficiency was noted — the muffler/tail pipe system had a bad leak. Tom and Walt will service the set within a couple of weeks.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to Field Day Planning. Field Day will start at 1800 UTC Saturday. Dennis, W4PWF proposed that we conduct our Field Day operations from the Club Radio Station, at the Arlington County American Red Cross building. After some discussion, concerning our past operations with the Alexandria ARC, it was decided that we should run our own show this year. Most importantly, it will give us a good opportunity to exercise our equipment and to be better prepared in the event of an actual emergency, where the station was the focal point for the communications.

Although the details will be worked out at our June meeting, there were suggestions that we have a picnic on Saturday afternoon, invite members of the Alexandria ARC and other hams in the area, and members of the American Red Cross staff.

Volunteer of the Quarter

(From, CROSSROADS, Spring 1997, The Newsletter for the Arlington County, Virginia Chapter, American Red Cross)

"Tom Protz is a 15-year veteran volunteer with the American Red Cross in Arlington. He is being recognized as our first Volunteer of the Quarter for the first quarter of 1997.

For as long as we have know Tom, he's been a real ham. Tom's affiliation with the Arlington Red

Cross Chapter began in 1982 when he offered his services as a ham radio operator to the first annual Run to the Rescue 10K Race in Crystal City.

This May will be Tom's 15th year providing communications services to the annual 10K race. In the past years, he also volunteered in disaster services, serving as the backup communications in joint Arlington County emergency services disaster drills.

73, Walt, KT4EL — Secy

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at Towson Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake and Highland Avenues, Towson, Md.. (June through Sept 97). -First Wednesday of the month -business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.
Repeaters: W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.
Club Net: Every Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on 146.67/224.24.
NTS Net: Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/ 224.240
Club BBS: (410) 252-6238 (min. 2400 baud)
Information: (410) HAMTALK
Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information: (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.
Club Address: BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136

Greetings! from Baltimore. As we rest up from Field Day (hope y'all got lots of good contacts too), we look back on activities of May. First, this interesting commentary from Tom Kreiner, N3YHC, where Tom explains about a great day were he and others exposed many young people to the joys and fun of the Amateur Radio Service:

On Saturday, May 24th, members of the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club hosted an amateur radio information booth at this year's Boy Scouts of America Expo '97. The Expo, held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, was a gathering of scouts both young and old. Many of the scouts had never heard of amateur radio and were extremely enthusiastic to learn more. By setting up a two-meter radio, an HF radio, and an APRS station, we were able to share this hobby with many prospective new hams.

One of the activities that we involved the scouts in was sending their names in Morse code. One particular scout became so overwhelmed with interest that he stayed with us for a good hour so that he could play with the radio. He quickly became proficient on the Morse code paddle, and much to the amazement of fellow amateur W3YVQ, was able to send the greeting "73" over the HF bands. His enthusiasm was almost too much for even his own mother to believe.

Thanks again to N3WJA, K3FT, WB3DJU, N3WKE, N3XPK, N3WD, W3YVQ and N3WXG for their interest and sharing this great hobby with others. Their efforts have helped to share a new kind of fun for many young people.
Tom Kreiner, N3YHC

Thanks to Tom for handling the event planning and getting the crew together, as well as for submitting the blurb for the article.

On other fronts, as I write this, the club is preparing for June elections. Immediately after elections is Field Day. Ed, N3WJA, Randy, N3WXG and I, along with others, are busy gathering food, equipment and supplies for the big contest, er, demonstration of emergency preparedness.

The club meetings will be at the Towson Presbyterian Church, a block from the courthouse, for the summer. Talkin is on 146.67 immediately following the Baltimore Traffic Net on meeting nights. We meet the first and third Wednesday of

each month. Come and visit!!

73 for now. de Doug, N3VEJ

Capital City Amateur Radio Society

Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month at 1200 hours at the Woodridge Public Library, 18th and Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome.
Repeater: W3EIL 144.51/145.11 MHz, open.
Nets: Regular net Wednesday at 2000 hrs, RTTY net Thursdays 2100 hrs, voice portion 2145 hrs, all on 145.110.
Mailing Address: CCARS, 1719 Franklin Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20018-2033.
Information: Steve, W3ETX, (202) 526-1329 or Chester, W3EIL (202) 529-9598.

CCARS enjoyed a day in Atlantic City, NJ on Monday, May 19, 1997. CCARS entertained friends and family on a bus trip to Atlantic City. The trip was well subscribed. Participants enjoyed door prizes and video on the trip.

Glad to hear Juanita N3NQC back on the morning show. You can't keep a good "ham" down. Sharyn, KA3DOF is also make good progress health wise.

73's, Joe K3UAL

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Carroll County Amateur Radio Emergency Team & Radio Club

Address: Carroll County Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 2099, Westminster, MD 21158.
Repeaters: 2M: 145.410-, 70cm: 449.875, 6M: 53.090.
BBS: 145.03 & 446.075.
Nets: Tuesdays 8:30 p.m. local CARET Net 145.410-. First Wednesday: 8:00 p.m. local, Mason Dixon Swap Net 145.410-.
Club Meetings: Business meeting Second Monday of the month at the EOC in Wesmnister. 7:30 p.m. local, talk-in: 145.410- Program meeting: Last Wednesday of the month at the EOC in Wesmnister. 7:30 p.m. local, talk-in: 145.410-.

On May 24, our Club was asked to provide communications for the Westminster Rotary's event shuttle bus service. Although it turned out that the event did not demand our services, we turned out and had the NCS station in place. I want to thank Jerry N3GQK, Rich N3JIA, Wayne N3UN, Phyllis N3BYU, John N3MNM, Tony N3MYJ, Mike N3KTX, Larry WX3F, and Jeannine for being there to support this public service event. July 13 is the Westminster VFD Country Fest. I see that Wayne N3UN, Gerry N3GQK, Tony N3MYJ, and Larry WX3F have already committed to support this fantastic Country Western show. It's time to think about the FOX Hunt in August. Check out those articles about what equipment and techniques are used to find that hidden transmitter! FIELD DAY is this month. June 28 and 29. This is the "Mother" of radio events. 2 days of radio operations. Showing the community how we can arrive on scene in case of an emergency, setting up and on the air within 24 hours.

Having fun and good social mingling while we're simultaneously communicating using multiple transmitting stations making contacts with as many stations as possible in 24 hours — non-

stop! We do take a break for the traditional potluck dinner Saturday evening. The Field Day committee has started weekly training sessions on Saturday mornings, starting May 31 until Field Day weekend. Don't wait until you are sitting in front of that radio station on Field Day to learn the equipment. Attend one of these sessions to get hands on training using the computer logging software, radio, and learning Field Day operating techniques.

In the 1996 November Phone Sweepstakes, Wayne N3UN scored a 4th place finish in the Maryland DC section class A. Dave N3II took 6th in class B. They had submitted their scores for the Potomac Valley Radio Club which took top honors in the Affiliated Club Competition. Maybe next year, they can help our club learn how to be competitors in the Sweepstakes. Congrats guys. I am proud to see that my alma mater and a radio club I was associated with, the Penn State University amateur radio club - K3CR, took top score in Phone and Combined totals in the Collegiate Championship.

This month from the ARRL Field Organization Forum. Phil KE3FL had his 1 Amp power supply demonstration reported. Dave KG6TU is busy on the traffic nets.

He obtained Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) again last month. Congratulations to both of you.

73 de WX3F

Chapter X

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Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the Doctors Community Hospital, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD (no meeting in December). Enter in the Outpatient Testing entrance across from the Emergency Room entrance behind the main building. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and exit left, the meeting room (DSE Room) is on the right.
Repeater: N3EZD/R 145.230 MHz. Users must transmit a 100.0 Hz CTCSS Tone for full area coverage. No tone necessary for local coverage.
Net: Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.
Mailing Address: Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.
Information: Jim Tilton, Pres. - KD3JA, (301) 552-0012.)

CMARCís members help provide radio communication for Christmas in April (April 26) and the CROP Walk (May 4). Thanks to all members who took the time to help out!

CMARC help regular business meetings on April 25 and May 23. The April 25th meeting was conducted by Vice President Roger Starsoneck/ W3VP since the club President was in Vietnam with his wife visiting her family there. Our business meeting consisted mainly of running done the list of upcoming events: Field Day (June 28-9), the BRATS Hamfest (July 27), the MD/DC QSO Party (mid August), and the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival (Aug 30 - Sept 1). CMARC will again this year participate in Field Day at the New Carrollton Bible Church, located on Good Luck Road, just inside the Beltway overpass, in New Carrollton, MD.

73 de Jim/KD3JA

Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Club meeting: 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Bethany United Methodist Church, Bethany Lane, Ellicott City.
Net: 147.135 repeater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting nights.
Repeaters: 147.735/147.135 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92); 147.990/147.390 (direct dial 911); 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135); and 443.275/448.275.
Information: Bob Scarburgh, Pres - KC3EV, (410) 465-2421.
Mailing: P.O. Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044

The newly formed CARA Satellite Group held its second meeting on April 26. Transmitting and receiving antennas were set up to try and listen for AO27 and FO20. Unfortunately, neither was heard. The group then watched a home video of Dave's-W3BNA portable satellite antenna mast which he will be loaning to the group.

CARA's May 27th meeting featured Brian Skutt-ND3F, who spoke on Roving in VHF Contests. Brian is an active VHF contester and has outfitted his van with a mobile setup. He brought his van for members to check out and talked about his operating technique and strategy.

A Field Day planning meeting was held on May 28th at Alan's-N3AC home. Standalone teams are being formed for specific tasks for the event. Volunteers and team leaders are still needed.

Like last year, the annual CARA picnic will be held concurrently with Field Day on June 28. Field Day and picnic will be at the Clarksville Elementary School off Rt.108.

73's, Jean Williams-KB3AOT

Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council

Meetings: Quarterly, date/time TBA
E-mail: DMARC@QSL.NET
Web Page: http://www.qsl.net/dmarc
Address: P.O. Box 73, Accokeek, MD 20607.

DMARC exists to provide a forum where those amateur radio operators interested in the "digital domain" can network together to learn more about packet radio, TCP/IP, APRS and other digital modes. The DMARC organization has several on-going initiatives that are focused on developing tools and educational packages to assist more amateurs in getting exposed to this challenging aspect of the amateur radio service.

Are you interested? If so, then mark your calendar and plan to attend our next quarterly meeting which has been scheduled for Saturday, 19 July beginning at 1 PM. We will be meeting at the Prince Georges County Emergency Operations Center in Seat Pleasant, Maryland - conveniently located just 1.5 miles west of the Washington (DC) Capital Beltway (I-95) on Maryland Route 214. Turn right on Jonquil Street, go two blocks, then right again on Anchor Street. Go up the hill and park in the visitor's parking lot. Talk-in on the KA3LAO 147.18 MHz (+)2-meter repeater. No time for lunch? Come right on over anyway... we will be serving sodas and refreshments!

Ongoing topics of discussion will include the latest news on the various band plan changes to be implemented over the next 6 months; actions now on-going to install high speed backbone nodes in the DMARC operating area; and the latest scoop on DMARC educational programs. Want more info? Then click your Internet web browser to WWW.QSL.NET/DMARC and get the very latest we have to offer on a number of digital topics. Those of you on packet just have to watch for the

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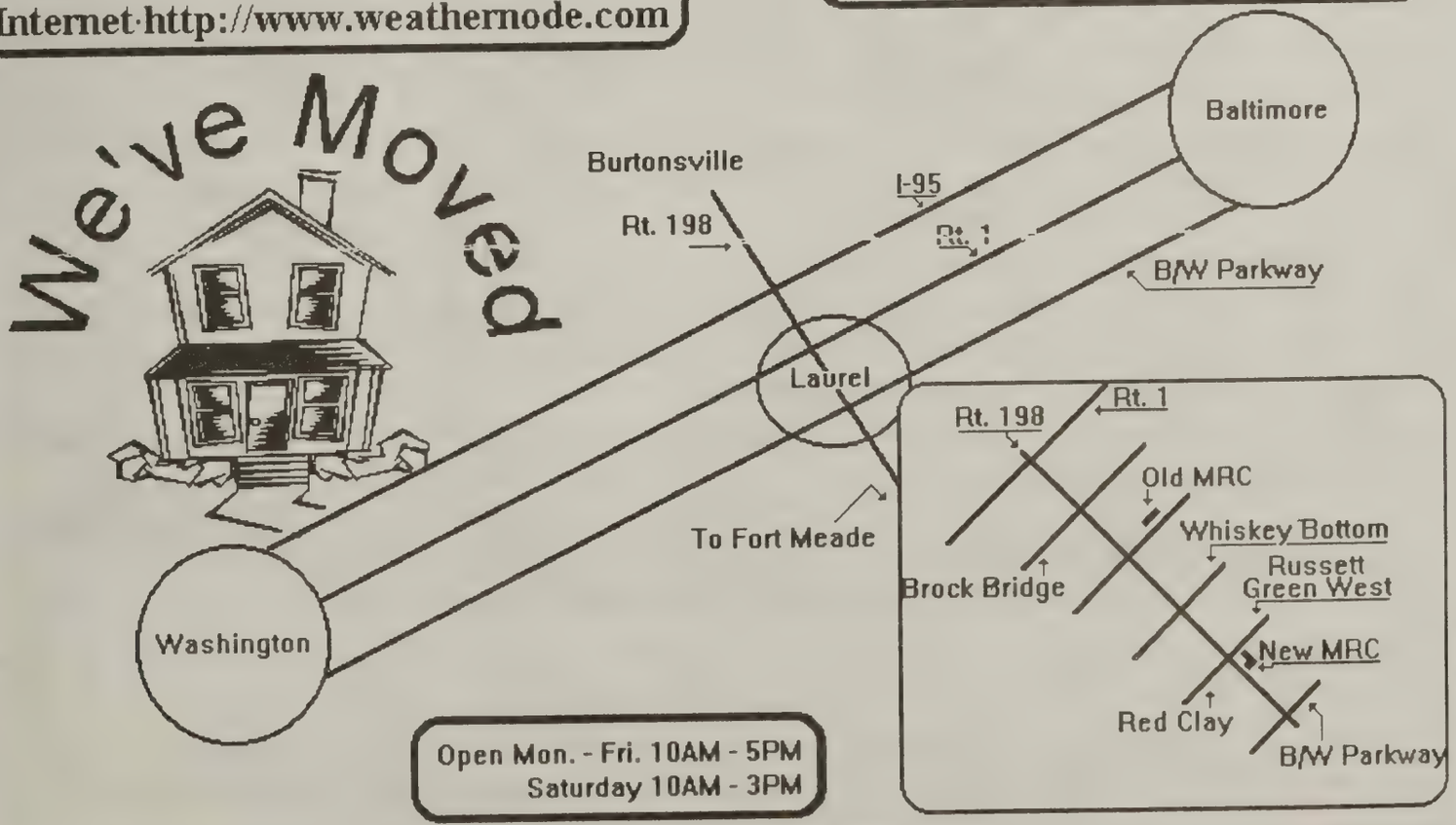

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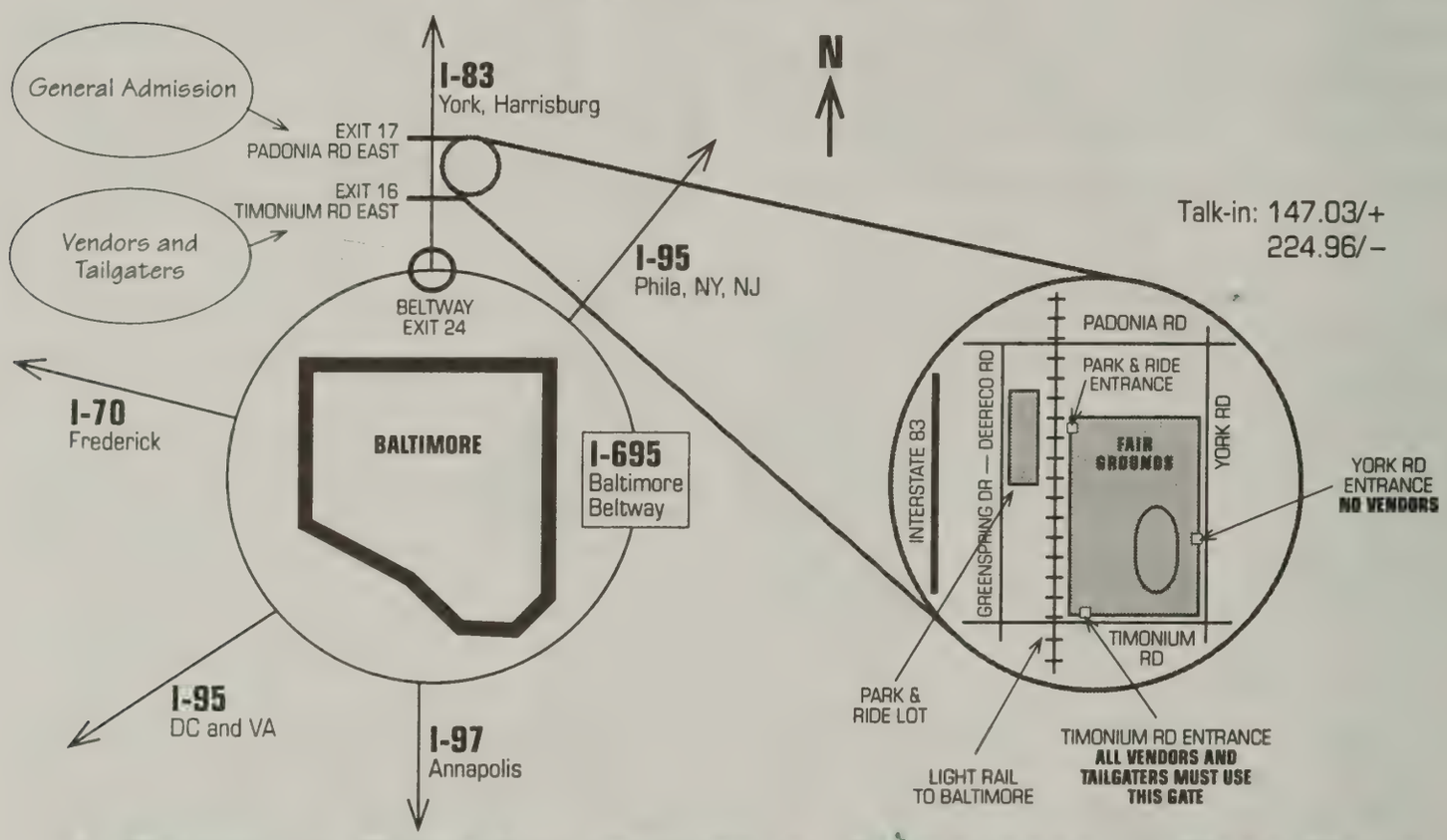

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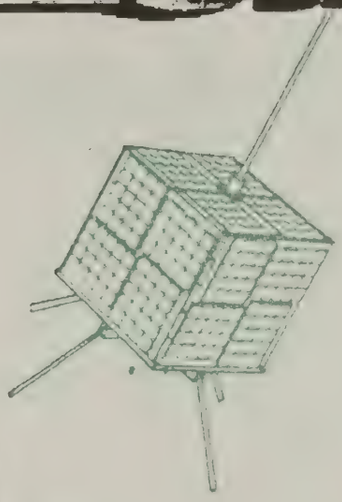

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DMARC@MDCBBS and DMARC@VANET bulletins on your friendly neighborhood BBS... WHAT - no local BBS! Hey, how about starting one up then. Don't know how... then send an e-mail to DMARC@QSL.NET and we'll help you get started.

We hope to see you on July 19th... we need your support to help make amateur radio digital operations grow in the mid-Atlantic area!

73, Pete (WA3UMY), DMARC PIO

Dulles Amateur Radio Group

On-the-air meeting: Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the Dulles Airport repeater.
Repeater: N4FSC, 145.310 (Herndon)
Mail: Dulles Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box 5073, Herndon, VA 22070-1964
Information: Mike Weber, WB8RDN, 703-450-2304

The Dulles Amateur Radio Group (DARG) is a family-oriented ham radio club affiliated with the N4FSC repeater in Dulles, VA. Membership is open to all, and the club holds several social and operating events each year. Dues are $20/yr for your entire family; members have access to the repeater's autopatch, and dues include a subscription or renewal to AutoCall. All area hams are warmly invited to join our information net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm.

This year's Field Day effort is being headed up by Craig, N4FSC and Mike, N4FXP. Thanks to both for taking on this challenging and important job.

A big welcome to new DARG members: Ron Stuebing KF4PQH, Mike Chisena KA2ZEV, Joanne Chisena KB2SHY, Brian Rogers KB2RMK, Decha Trungvachirachai KF4PQM, and Brent Madson KB7NBZ.

DARG will hold a VE exam session on August 16th. More details later, here and on the Tuesday 8pm net.

73, de Mike N4PDY

Fauquier Amateur Radio Association

Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Second Thursday of the month except July, August and December. Crestar Bank, Warrenton Ctr, Warrenton VA.
Breakfast: Last Saturday of the month at Western Sizzlin Warrenton VA 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Net:Every Wednesday, 9:00 p.m, 147.165 Mhz NZ4N Repeater
Packet: KE4YVU FARA7 node 145.070 Mhz with direct connect to FBBS9, FBBS9 Bulletin Board 145.090 Mhz, FARA9 node 145.090 Mhz.
Repeater: NZ4N/R 147.165 Mhz (+0.600).
Newsletter: TOROID, Monthly. Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month. Contact Bonnie, n4qpb@mnsinc.com.
Info: Chuck Gould, N4YXW 540-347-0112. FARA, PO Box 752, Warrenton VA 20187
Web: http://www.mnsinc.com/ki4ro/fara.htm.
Next meeting: Sep. 11.

No meeting in July due to Field Day. Saturday breakfast always on the last Saturday of the month.

The May club meeting featured ARES topics. Jeanne Rexroad, N4ZGI, presented the membership with the latest information about ARES and related activities in the Northern Virginia area. Many of those attending were able to update their ARES memberships and some new members were recruited. Fresh photographs for ARES identification cards were also made at the meeting.

Field Day chairman John, KI4RO, confirmed that the Airlie site has been approved and some details of Field Day preparations were discussed. The club will be participating as a QRP station this year. Everyone is excited about the challenges, and ideas are flowing freely on ways to improve the antennas etc to make it a powerhouse QRP setup. Donations of food and drinks by Safeway, Giant, and Food Lion have been gratefully accepted. Rumor has it that Duffy KD6RNE has been recruited for the kitchen this year, so we'll be eating well!

The Commonwealth Dressage event was a good showing for the club on Memorial Day. Club members endured the rain, last minute changes and short handed staffs to help pull off the event. Great job all around! A special thanks to Bonnie N4QPB as net control. Participating in the event raised $1000 for the club treasury.

Looking forward to working you at Field Day.

73, Mark

Goddard Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Meeting: Third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Goddard Amateur Radio Club station, Soil Conservation Road, Greenbelt, MD, across from the Soil Conservation Road gate of the Goddard Space Flight Center. This road may be accessed from either Route 193, Greenbelt Road, or Powder Mill Road.
Net: Information net is held every Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. local time. All amateur radio operators are welcomed. Net Control is Don Bennett, W3MIK
Repeater: 146.835 Mhz.
Information: Jim Blackwell, N3KWU, (301) 286-4534; Vikki Gigante-Hueber, KA3PVS, (301) 249-2609.

Hello, GARC fans! Happy Fourth of July and all that stuff! We will be up with the Microgravity Lab this month and it will be a sixteen hour a day mission. Of course, the hours that they are awake are not the normal hours that we are awake, but hey, NASA doesn't take that into consideration for our listeners' pleasure, they just have to get the job done!

So, if you don't hear us at what you feel should be the time that we should be on the air, like from noon to eight p.m., it is just because the astronauts are sleeping then. So, we will try to be up as much as possible when the astronauts are. Right now, it is scheduled for July 7 at 7:02 a.m., but, of course, that is subject to change.

We have a new slate of officers at WA3NAN. Congratulations are extended to Robert DiRosario, President; Frank Bauer, Vice-President; Chuck Sommer, Secretary; and Roberto Aleman, Treasurer. I know this team will do a super job for the club this year.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you at the club's open house which will be on Wednesday, September 17, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Please circle that date on your calendars and come see us on Soil Conservation Service Road in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Happy Fourth of July to all! 73's, Vikki

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Green Mountain Repeater Association

Meetings: Board of Directors, Last Monday of each month.
Repeaters: KD3VR-146.61 (Cheverly), K3GXF-146.88 (Greenbelt).
Luncheon: First Saturday of each month at the Fountain Cafe, in the Laurel Shopping Center Mall, US Route 1 (Baltimore Ave.) and Cherry Lane. Starts at 11:30 AM. Monitor 146.88 for Talk-In.
Nets: Old Gents Net meets on 146.88 each day at 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net meets on 146.88 each Thursday at 9:30 P.M.
Mail: P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD 20718-0523.
Information: John Williams, N5SJZ, (301) 805-5761.

THANK YOU MR. EDITOR

It is sometimes difficult for us lay persons to comprehend just how involved it is to put together the *Auto Call* magazine every month. The preparation of each column so that it fits properly into the space required, changes to club headers, advertisements, editorials, editing, selection of cover photographs, last minute announcements, deadlines, legal requirements, and on and on. No easy task. So on behalf of the GMRA and its 225 members, I would like to thank Auto Call Magazine Editor, John Queen, KAØSEY, for his unselfish service in support of the FAR and the Amateur Radio community, and for a magazine that is indicative of his professionalism.

ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION AMATEUR OF THE YEAR 1997!

Congratulations to GMRA's 2nd Vice President, Joseph Nunemaker, KD3VR, on being selected as The ARRL Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year. The Atlantic Division encompasses the 8 areas of MD, DC, DE, E. PA, W. PA, N. NY, W. NY and S. NJ. The Award was formally announced at the Atlantic Division's Convention in Rochester, NY on May 30th 1997 and is presented to an outstanding all-around Amateur with a strong record of service to the Amateur community. Much deserved Joe and congrats again.

GMRA MEMBER PUBLISHED

Just recently we reported that Sally J.K. Davies, VE3VJU/W3, received her private pilot's license. Well, Sally did it again: (1) The Lerner Publishing Group has published her illustrated children's book entitled, "Why Did We Have to Move Here?", for children ages 5-8; and (2) The UNICEF selected one of her illustrated children's birthday cards, "The Birthday Balloon", for their 1997 sale catalog. Spouse Derrick, N3RQS, must be very proud of her. Congratulations from all of us at GMRA.

Sally Davies, VE3VJU/W3, pilot, author, illustrator, and amateur radio operator, standing in front of the family Cessna, N1UY.

EMERGENCY BACKUP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

As a result of a request for assistance from Dr. Daniel Diamond, M.D., KC7MTK, Director,

Disaster Response Team for the State of Washington, the GMRA 61 repeater will be used for backup emergency autopatch service for a youth event to be held in Washington DC, July 16-20. In his request, Dr. Diamond wanted an amateur repeater autopatch 911 capability, to back-up cell phones and commercial transceivers.

GMRA AUTO CALL COLUMN SCRIBE

After many years of preparing and writing the GMRA column for *Auto Call*, Ken Easton, N3HLY, is handing over the scribe pen to yours truly. I only hope that I can continue to be as consistent and interesting to our Auto Call column readers as he has been over the years. Ken will continue to prepare the Prince George's Wireless Assn column, in addition to his GMRA repeater control operator duties. Thank you Ken for your most generous contribution of time and effort in writing and preparing the GMRA column.

GMRA NEWSLETTER

With the departure of former GMRA Vice President, John Williams, N5SJA, and his spouse Debby, N5SKA, to Utah, the editing of the GMRA NEWSLETTER will be assumed by Samson Melamed, N3TJU and myself, beginning with the Fall/Winter 1997 edition. Photographs and articles are solicited from the membership. Please bring them to the monthly luncheons, mail them to my home address, or send articles only to my E-mail address, mgreen@erols.com. John and Debby are a tough act to follow but Samson and I will do our best to continue to provide you with one of the area's best amateur radio newsletters. Thanks.

73 de Murray Green K3BEQ

Reminder - all submissions for

AUTO CALL

are due no later than the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication!!

Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM,In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads. Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).
Net: Monday 8:00 PM, 146.67(–)/224.24(–) MHz (courtesy of BARC).
Club Station: W3GR.
Info: Herman Turner, WK3P (410) 647-4178.
Mail: P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore , MD 21203.
Street address: 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

Technical Presentation - VHF Contesting

Ed Steeble, K3DIX gave the members an excellent presentation on "VHF Contesting from South Mountain" The very impressive antenna farm and first class results made all present ready to buy their own mountain top. Thanks Ed - it was both informative and enjoyable.

The May 1997 Business Meeting

A Training session was set up to familiarize new operators on the tricks of the trade in operating the TBL-13 transmitter, now that it has been reintegrated into the new W3GR operations facility. HEMARC is always in need of new members or guests that have experience with old military electronics communications equipment. [As well as any licensed ham that thinks working with this fine old gear is interesting.]

The reinstalled 70CM ATV system has finished check out and will be ready to go before the first week in June. HEMARC is also in need of ATV operators to support more regularly scheduled operations.

Donations of military surplus or commercial UHF, VHF or Amateur Microwave equipment would be very much appreciated. One of the missions of HEMARC is to provide a public display of all the many aspects of ham radio on all bands. A Tax letter is available.

The Hands-on/Elmering class has been completed. Three students finished the design, construction and operation of a one tube QRP transmitter. One of the students reported to the members on his experience in the class. He stated that this had rekindled his interest in ham radio and caused him to upgrade to Tech Plus. This class was an experimental first time effort and a number of things have been identified that will improve the course. It is judged a success and a fall session will be considered. Many thanks to Heru Wamsley, W3WVV and Ray Robley KD3KK for conducting the course.

The membership voted to retain the meeting starting time of 5:30 PM . A library of very good video tapes from the ARRL is now available at reasonable cost. Other clubs will be contacted to see if there is interest in jointly purchasing the library which would be shared.

73 de Chip, W4PBG

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Meetings: Third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the El Rancho Plus restaurant. Call for directions, if needed.
Nets: Every Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m. on 28.360 SSB; informal get togethers at morning and evening commute times on 147.480 simplex.
Mailings: Loudoun Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box 1004, Purcellville, VA 20134
Information: Gary Quinn, NC4S, (540)822-5690; or John Unger (540)338-4620

Preparations for LARG Field Day operations dominated our May meeting.

The site planning committee reported on its visit to Ida Lee Park in Leesburg and detailed plans for some new antenna arrangements including a terminated Beverage antenna oriented to northwest. The additional antenna plans pointed out the clubs need for some additional coax the membership unanimously passed a motion to dip into the club's coffers for some RG-213.

Further discussion resulted in the club adopting the station "Czar" approach (gleaned from the Heard Island Dxpedition) to our 3A Field Day organization. Gary, NC4S, John, W4AU, and Tom, WB3AKD were appointed "Czars" this year. The Club also looks forward to bringing its new call, K4LRG, on the air for the first time on Field Day.

May's meeting also saw our second "mini-fest" (after adjournment, of course) and the membership had a great time pouring over the tubes, coils and circuit cards that appeared, some for the second time!

LARG's fall Amateur Radio class plans are firming up. We have found a place (Ida Lee Park in Leesburg again) and we are tentatively scheduling a 9 week entry level course to begin September 17, 1997. More details will appear in future columns.

The club's president, and senior contester, John, W4AU, delved into the CW prefix contest in May, racking up over 1.3 million points. While John was bounding the brass, other members made the trip to the hamfest in Howard County relocating a number of electronic gems to Loudoun.

The agenda for June's meeting is (you guessed it), Field Day! The Loudoun Amateur Radio Group serves Leesburg and western Loudoun County Virginia. Meetings are held every third Saturday at 8:30 AM at the El Rancho Plus Restaurant in Purcellville, Virginia. All interested parties are welcome. LARG holds a 10 meter SSB net every

Sunday night at 8:00 PM local time on 28.360 MHz. The daily commuter net meets on 147.48 MHz FM Simplex. For more information contact John, W4AU at (540) 338-4620 or Tom, WB3AKD at (540) 338-4905.

The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M. NBC Building - WKYS Conference Room, 4001 Nebraska Avenue, Washington, DC.
Nets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on 145.45 MHz (PL-5A).
Repeaters: 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A), 145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).
WWW Address: http://mvhsl.mbhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html
Mailing: P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902
Information: Larry Ziecheck - N3GKZ (301) 984-6113, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6113.

Now that Field Day '97 is over for another year, we can direct our energies to our next project, which will take place the first week in July. MADRAS will be operating the K3VOA (Voice of America) station for a Fourth of July Special Event and to celebrate the VOA's 55th anniversary. We will run two HF stations (probably on 14240 and 7240) and possibly one VHF, 2-meter station. We will start operating on July 4th at 1200 UTC and end at 2200 UTC.

We hope many of you will be listening for us and give us a contact. To receive your QSL card, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

MADRAS
P.O. Box 2468
Wheaton, MD 20902

During the summer months, June, July and August, MADRAS holds no eye-ball meetings at the NBC building in Washington, DC; however, we will hold our net every Thursday night instead of the first and third Thursday of the month. We start at 9:00 P.M. on 145.45 and welcome all check-ins.

Michele Cimbala-WK3X, has once again volunteered her spacious back yard and wonderfully air-conditioned home for our annual Picnic/Barbecue

We will hold this annual event on Sunday, July 20th. The festivities will begin around noon and continue until 6:00 P.M. Featured on the menu will be juicy char-broiled burgers and hot dogs, assorted salads, crisp vegetable platters, cold refreshing fruits, sinfully rich deserts, plus a wide assortment of snacks and drinks. Bring your appetite with you because we start nibbling at noon and don't stop until it's time to roll out to our cars.

Our End of Summer dinner will probably be scheduled in August again this year. We haven't decided on the date or the restaurant as of yet but will have all that information to you by the next issue of *Auto Call*. Suggestions are always welcome so give Jean a call at the Clubhouse if you have a particular favorite restaurant you want to put on the list for consideration.

Have a Safe & Happy Fourth of July.

73's, Jean - N3PLC

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The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First Friday of each month at the AA Co. EOC, Crownsville State Hospital grounds Crownsville, Md.
Repeaters: WA3PJQ - 146.805 & 449.125 both in Millersville, Md. W3VPR - 442.3 in Annapolis - Joint usage AARC.
Social Breakfasts: 15 days (3 Saturdays) after club mtg, at Rick's Cafe in Odenton at 9 AM.
Mailing: MMARC, P.O. Box 935, Severn, Md. 21144
Nets: 2-Meter on 146.805 @20:30 local time every Monday, 10-Meter CW practice net @19:00 Monday on 28.230 MHz.
Information: Brian Fitzpatrick, N3QXW (President). Bill Ziegler KA6TYY (410) 987-2384 (e-mail: Zzziggy@aol.com).
Web: http://www.erols.com/wb3v/mmarc/

Greetings to all from the Mobileers!

Well, last month John Barbour/N3BTM described the Special Event Planned on the USS TORSK for Armed Forces Day. Well, here is a summary of that event.

(By John/N3BTM) 1997 USS Torsk Special Event Operation: May 17th, Armed Forces Day.

I sure hope you had fun working the Torsk this year, because the crew sure had a good time working the bands.

Murphy didn't pay a visit to us, although I wasn't so sure about that during the antenna set-up. Maybe you haven't noticed but its been rather windy lately. So when Frank/N3SEO and I went downtown Friday to put in place the antennas, we encountered gale force winds that only the waterfront can provide. While assembling the H-F vertical(all four hands occupied) along comes the blast from Hell. And I'll bet you can't guess what box it picked up. That's right the antenna box. The one with the rest of the antenna parts we are so carefully putting together. And you know where it thought was a good place to put it? Correct again, in the drink next to the pier, face down and partly open(of course). Needless to say I scurried down to retrieve what I thought would be an empty container. Miraculously all the parts were still in the box! I didn't believe it until we had completed putting it together. Quite frankly, I still don't believe it! The only thing lost were some 'c' clamps we had planned to use to secure it to the sub.

Slightly rattled, and still leaning into the wind, we decided to ponder how to affix the vertical while we installed the other antennas. They went up easily. Despite the wind, which on more than one occasion made an attempt at testing my high-diving skills by blowing me off the sail.

We soon solved the vertical quandary, and from there the operators took over on Saturday. We made a total of 348 contacts. As usual 40m was king with 148. 20m had a good day with 75, and 2m added another 125.

We were authorized this year to operate with a 1x1 call W3N. I'd like to thank Russ/N3GT for getting on the horn to the right people to make it happen. Russ also furnished us with one of the two H-F stations that performed so well.

Thanks also to John/KO4A for getting the second H-F up and running on short notice.

Also Harold/WB4OGP, who was not present, but whose presence was felt in providing 150 ft of extra coax, and the antenna that did the job on 2m.

Last and certainly not least, Frank/N3SEO, without whom I would have never got the antennas up on Friday.

And a salute to the rest of the crew members of '97:

Rick/N3BUT ; Joe/N3LRP ; Jerri/N3MDA ; Tom/W3NI ; Ken/N3OPI ; Doug/AA3OR ; Bill/

KA6TYY ; Arnie/K3TEL Billy/N3VPP ; Steven/ N3YPJ

(John, N3BTM, has done an outstanding job making the TORSK come alive with comms each year. Thanks for not only supporting the MMARC, but supporting the amateur radio hobby John!!)

That's it for this month. Please note our club meeting, breakfast and net times. We would be happy to meet you and share some good " Ham Stories"!! Don't Hesitate to use our repeater if you are in our area.

73, Bill, KA6TYY

The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Greencastle PA.
Net: Tuesday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.
4 State10M net: Wednesdays at 2000 local on 28.315.
Repeaters: Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.
Mailing: 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A, Hagerstown MD 21740
Information: Voice BBS 301-416-8447 (info Box 112) LandLine BBS (301) 416-8435

HAMFEST! HAMFEST! HAMFEST! July 20 is the date for SwetFest97 in beautiful downtown Brunswick, Maryland. We've pushed to get even more "whole family" activities included in the calendar this year.

As before we have the downtown antique and craft stores opening early along with the Brunswick Railroad Museum.

This year we have teamed with the Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance Company Auxiliary to offer an arts and crafts fair in the City Park Building at the same time as the HamFest. A free shuttle will run between the two downtown locations. As usual, there's not a parking problem with over 400 paved spaces in the MARCRail commuter lot.

June's meeting is scheduled for "Roy's Place" in Gaithersburg, Maryland as this column is being written. By the time you get to read this, all the incredibly-named sandwiches such as "Victoria's Bustle" and "Clam Digger's Delight" will have been consumed. If you didn't get there, mark your calendar for July 10 and tune in the club net on 147.06 (RPT) at 8 PM any Tuesday evening to get the location for the July meeting.

Beginning with the net on May 13th, we started a "ham radio magazine" in which an area ham with experience on a particular subject would give a short talk after the check-in portion of the net. We had a great discussion of amateur television led by Bob, N3TXB, and a discussion on amateur radio for the visually impaired with Bud, KD3J. Future discussions will be on DSP audio filters, how repeaters work, and HF operating tips. If you have a topic of interest, contact Bill, N2CF, to sign up.

We have made modifications to the 147.06 repeater control system to allow dialing of local numbers with the new ten digit numbers. AutoDial numbers are currently being updated. Because we are using the 1997 database of club members, your AutoDial number may change. Access codes will also be updated for this feature.

Normal patch access remains the same. Look for an e-mail message with the necessary information. If you do not receive one, contact <madraclub@aol.com> and let us know. AutoDial numbers are available for current members only.

Have you checked out the MADRAClub Web Page yet? It's easily found at <http://members.aol.com/madraclub> and is chock-full of hot info about the club, upcoming activities, dates

and places. Also note that there are two numbers available for Voice BBS access, enabling a local call from Washington County or Frederick County in Maryland: 301-416-8447 and 301-473-4151.

We are planning this year's Field Day for Gambrill State Park's Middletown Overlook section. At the moment we are still awaiting approval from the park service for 24 hour operation. If we have problems with using the park, we plan to use "Site X" as we have for the past several years. Hopefully you found us with the help of the club nets, bulletins and/or Web Page

We don't plan to hold our usual VE test session on July 19 since we'll be offering tests at SwetFest97 on July 20. If we can hold to our schedule, we will continue to offer VE testing at the Berkeley County Emergency Services Office in Martinsburg, West Virginia. The schedule at that location is for the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. These are ARRL VEC Test Sessions. Pre-register by e-mail to <veteam@aol.com> or in Box 103 on the Voice BBS.

HAMFEST! HAMFEST! HAMFEST! Your help is needed: setup, tickets, cleanup and demonstrations. If you can help or have ideas on demonstrations, or are active in R/C aircraft, contact W8ABC or N2CSQ to volunteer!

73 DE N2CSQ/3

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Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Executive Office Bldg, Montgomery Co. Govt Center, 101 Monroe St, Rockville. Park in underground lot G-2.
Repeaters: 146.955 (-600) & 442.750 (PL 156.7) in Rockville.
Club Net: Every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, on the MARC repeater.
Internet: http://www.dsport.com/marc/
Mail: MARC, P.O. Box 611, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-0611
Information: Jeff - KZ3F (301) 258-0112
Training: Ms. Rocky Jones (301) 216-5210

Hamvention '97

Several of the MARC members survived yet another round trip to the Dayton Hamvention. Al-NW2M drove a new minivan loaded with HF/VHF/UHF equipment while mobile operators Todd-N3QFZ, Rick-N3SCP, and Jay-N3SLS raised the noise floor.

Except for the red overhead dome light to illuminate the two rear operating positions, there were no interior lights to interfere with night driving.

The West Virginia State Police found our van quite interesting as we were followed and examined several times. The tinted windows, the green glow of the digital readouts, and operators wearing headsets must have raised more than a few eyebrows throughout our trip.

We even had our picture taken several times by a tour bus as we passed through daylight hours on our return trek flashbulbs and all! From

Rockville to Dayton and back, we logged 1003 miles, 3 tanks of gas, consumed untold amounts of caffeinated beverages, and more stories and laughs than we could log!

Can't wait until Hamvention '98!

ARRL Field Day 1997

This was the first operating event in which we could use our new club callsign - KV3B. Everyone had a chance to wear an "Amateur Extra Class" operator's hat for a day. New and old hams, family and friends, all had a chance to operate as KV3B.

Those that were in a contest mood got a chance to experience a full "radio-day" with all of the changes in the bands over a 24 hour period. Yes, the chapter on propagation came into play that weekend.

As we tally all of the scores from 160M through 432, including satellite operations, we'll have more in the next issue of AutoCall. Stay tuned!

MARC Club Announcements

Just a reminder to club members that we will be having a dinner meeting on July 2nd at O'Brien's Pit Barbecue Restaurant on Gude Drive in Rockville starting at 6:30 PM.

The next meeting on July 16 will be a regular business meeting with a technical presentation on cross-band mobile radio repeater operation. Come on out and hear why it's done and how it's done-from the experts themselves!

Yes, your car can be a repeater for you! Stay tuned to 146.955 for the latest details- and don't forget to check in to our Sunday Night Net on 146.955 at 7:30 PM local time for updates and NewsLine broadcasts.

73 for now and have a safe 4th!

Al, NW2M

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. (except December) Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parker's Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308.
Nets: Every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. Starts on 2 meters then moves to 10 meters on 28.405 MHz.
Repeater: WD4PDP 146.055 input / 146.655 output.
Mailing: Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club(MVARC) c/o Joe Salemi KR4CZ, P.O.Box 7234,Alexandria, VA 22307.
Information: Chuck W3HSW, 703-660-6623.
WEB Site: http://www.netcom.com/~jsalemi/mvarc.html

Spring brought active times for some MVARC members: Special events, community service, Scouting supports, QRP Field Day, Dayton Hamvention and ARES Institute were among the primary activities. Several members helped support the Saint Patrick's Day parade in Alexandria and a contingent provided communications to the annual Mount Vernon Hospital to Jones Point run in April.

The Club had several transmitters on the air for one of the QRP Field Days near the end of April. Frank, AA4ZS and Tom, N4BV, put two rigs on the air with a vertical and a car mounted whip. "DX" contacts included Florida and Missouri. All who attended (including several visitors) had a good time, which was aided by beautiful weather.

John, WQ4L, made another trip to the ITU in Geneva, Switzerland where he operated their station, 4U1ITU for two weeks. John reported that while the band openings to the states weren't very good, he was able to work a number of European stations.

Tom, N4BV, drove to Utah and operated HF mobile along the way, with his primary mode being CW with some SSB on 40. We'll be interested to hear his report about this operation upon his return.

Several members attended Amateur Radio Emergency Service training in May. This is the second year the ARES Training Institute has been offered.

During June MVARC had a small display set up in the Fairfax Library's Martha Washington branch. The display featured photos of some of the Club's public service activities, social events, Field Day and an assortment of DX QSL cards.

Field Day was held at Fort Ward Park in Alexandria this year. One of the prime objectives was to provide on air experience to those holding introductory grade licenses under guidance of senior licensed control operators.

Explorers and adult leaders from the Post co-sponsored by MVARC provided communications for logistics and safety support at the recent Order of The Arrow Brotherhood initiation and induction ceremonies at Goshen, Virginia. Plans call for the Post to set up an independently-operated station at the Club's Field Day site.

Spring also marks the license testing program's return to Lee Park. Special thanks to the First Christian Church of Alexandria for the use of their hall for the past year.

On Armed Forces Day several members including Vince, KE4SKW, Rick, WQ4C, Rick, KE4SKX and several USCG persons operated the station at the U.S. Coast Guard facility in Alexandria. The station used the call NMH while operating crossband, transmitting on government frequencies and listening on ham bands. At other times of the year the station can be heard on the Navy / Coast Guard MARS AFLOAT net with the call sign NNN0NCG, or on the amateur bands as K4CG.

Meeting-night programs in the past few months have included presentations about Civil Air Patrol, Cellular Telephones and the Fairfax County Police radio system enhancement project. June's meeting is the annual Field Day planning session. Proposed programs for upcoming meetings include spread spectrum communications and very low frequency activities.

MVARC's Vice President, Frank, AA4ZS, is putting together an Elmer program to help newly licensed hams, and anyone else, with technical or operational problems. Details will be announced at the June meeting and on the Tuesday night nets.

The Club will provide communications support to the July 4 activities at Lee District park. Hope everyone has a Happy Independence Day holiday.

73, Chuck, W3HSW

National Capitol DX Association

Meetings: Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec. at a member's home. Contact the Secretary (Rick Murphy, K1MU) for details.
On-the-air: Every Sunday at 8:30 PM on the 147.000 repeater. All are welcome!
Information: Rick Murphy-K1MU (703) 280-2637 or Leo Boberschmidt-KA3TGY (301) 946-3738.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NCDXA CLUB MEMBERS: To Ben - N3UMA on upgrading to Extra Class. Ben is really looking forward to being able to operate in the lower parts of the CW bands with his new privileges. To Yuki JH1NBN/K3ZB for a really fine operation from 8R and J8 is late April/early May. Yuki seemed to have a constant pile up every time I heard him on the air. To Fred - K3ZO who once again won the CW Pileup Contest at the Dayton Hamfest.

NC3DX ACTIVITIES: Our special NC3DX club call QSLs arrived in May. Wayne, W4MPY, got them printed and shipped just before he headed for Dayton. NC3DX QSL #1 went to NCDXA-er Ken Miller, K6IR. Our first use of the club call was on the Sunday Night Meeting On The Air on 23 December 1996. The new QSL cards will have been shown to the club at the June 21st meeting at W3LPL's.

Jeff - WV3B and Ben - N3UMA used the NC3DX call from Jeff's QTH in the CQ WPX CW contest with great results. Jeff has sent envelopes to the 1-land and 3-land bureaus. The 1-land bureau was included because the call trustee is Rick - K1MU.

NC3DX in the 1997 CQ WPX CW Contest:

BAND	QSOs	Prefixes
80	37	22
40	100	57
20	420	250
15	100	47
Totals:	657	376 = 517,000 points.

Equipment Description: 600 watts to 2-ele quad 15m-20m, 40m dipole, 80m inverted L.

NEXT MEETING: The meeting venue for the August NCDXA meeting is as follows. Mark you calendars now:

August Meeting: Aug 16th at the QTH of Marty - W3YOZ on the Bay.

The August meeting will be at W3YOZ's, on the Bay. This is the Annual NCDXA-PVRC Fowlfest. Superb location, delicious chicken barbeque, witty attendees —— what more could you ask for ????

73 till next time de Leo - KA3TGY, NCDXA President [leob@erols.com]

Northern Virginia FM Association

Meetings: Fall, Winter and Spring at Virginia Power, On Rt 50 just west of the West Ox Road overpass and the Fair Oaks Mall.
Weekly Nets: NVFMA Talk Net, Mon, 8:00 PM, 146.79; NVFMA Swap Net, Tue, 8:00 PM, 146.91; NVFMA Clinic, 1st Wed of the month, 7:30 PM, 146.79; NVFMA Net, Wed, 8:00 PM, 146.79; ARES, Sun, 9 PM, 146.91.
Repeaters: 52.37/53.37, 146.19/146.79, 146.31/146.91, 222.50/224.10 Xlink, 222.74/224.34, 449.75/444.75, 1272.1/1292.1.
Membership Info: Ann McWhirt, (703) 330-7429 or email to ammom@erols.com.
Mailing Address: NVFMA, P.O. Box 486, McLean, VA 22101.

Your NVFMA Board of Directors met in mid May for the primary purpose of preparing our newsletter for mailing to the membership. Getting together on a Wednesday evening for a change gave the Board the opportunity to check into the Wednesday night NVFMA net on our 146.19/146.79 repeater "en mass."

Some NVFMA system users may have noticed over the past several weeks that stations, especially mobiles, who previously had strong signals into the .91 repeater were "in and out." After checking out the system, it was determined that the Bull Run remote site is not voting properly. The result is the Bull Run remote site has been temporarily disabled so basic .91 repeater performance could return to normal. Users may experience some amount of reduced service until full system functionality is restored.

Do you know you can contact the NVFMA very easily by electronic mail? Well you can by simply sending your e-mail to "NVFMA@juno.com". Phil, KF4AJZ man's the

Juno mailbox and will see to it that all incoming e-mail is forwarded to any member of the Board for action or Association member as appropriate.

The NVFMA also has a new web page on the INTERNET thanks to Jeff, KC4RON.

Our web page is simple and is intended to provide information pertaining to the Association. You can reach our web page via the following path:

http://www.geocities.com/
SiliconValley/Way/5337/

Be careful to use upper and lower case as shown and do not include any spaces between the names.

Maury Shumaker, W0HYB
Vice President

Prince George's Wireless Association

Meetings: First working Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM; American Red Cross bldg., 6206 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782.
Club Station: K3CEZ
Mailing: 4109 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, MD 20781
Information: Frank Holton - WA3ZMW (301) 927-1245

The monthly PGWA meeting for May was held on Tuesday, the 4th, 1997. Due to the absence of our Club President, Frank, WA3ZMW, the meeting was a short and informal one.

We are hoping that Frank will be feeling better so that we can have a regular business meeting. Even though Frank is now going on 91 years of age, he knows how to set the tone for a good meeting.

June is "Field Day" month and as usual, everyone is filled with anxiety and anticipation to see what this year's will offer in the way of different standards of communications. PGWA is no exception, we only hope that there will be a good show of members to participate.

Our field of operations will be in the outdoor area behind the Red Cross building in Hyattsville, MD. We hope to have at least two sources of portable power.

Thanks to Charles, KA3COT for working the "Crop Walk" on Sunday, May 4, 1997 at the First Methodist Church of Hyattsville. Due to unexpected circumstances, Charles had to handle this alone for PGWA.

73's from Ken Easton, N3HLY

Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Chapter #20

Chapter 20 held its annual meeting at Synder's Willow Grove Restaurant on April 19, 1997. We had 36 members and guests in attendance.

The speaker was Don Williamson, VE2LR, who is president of Can-Am Consultants, Ltd. He talked about the contributions of radio in the early days of modern Canada and its historical importance. Since most of us were in amateur radio during that time, we found it very interesting.

We had two guests from the Vic Clark Chapter 91, John Swafford, W4HU, and Tony Stalls, K4KY0. A moment of silence was held in the memory of Ethel Smith, K4LMB who use to attend our annual meeting quite often. She is greatly missed by the members of Chapter 20.

Morris Blum, NY3L, was presented with his 60 year Gold Certificate. The presentation was

made by John Swafford,W4HU.

Usually Chapter 20 holds an election of officers every two years. Because of some difficulty in getting a slate of officers, the present officers agreed to serve one more term.

One feature of our annual meeting is a tour of the Historical Electronics Museum by our member Heru Walmsley, W3WVV. The museum is very near the restaurant and well worth the time to visit.

Our annual luncheon is open to all amateurs and friends whether a QCWA member or not. Please consider coming sometime and joining QCWA.

73's, Cam, W3EPR Sec.-Treas.

Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Chapter #91

Meetings: Neighbor's Restaurant, Cedar Lane and Park Street, Vienna, VA; third Saturdays; Noon. Business/Program Meetings: Odd-numbered months. (Come at 11:30 to chat; program begins at noon.) Informal/Ragchew Meetings: Even-numbered months.
Newsletter: Bi-monthly to all members.
Information: Dick Rucker (KM4ML), Secretary; 10426 Darby St., Fairfax, VA 22030-3603; 703-591-3279. Also on the VHF net.
VHF FM Net: Sunday 9 AM, 146.79MHz.

Dick Rucker (KM4ML), our Recording Secretary, has received many compliments for the outstanding work he has done for the Vic Clark Chapter. Apparently we have become too dependent on him: Dick was on vacation at the time of our May meeting and no one thought to pass around a sign-in sheet, or to take minutes. Dick, don't do this to us again.

WHAT A MEETING!! Our May 1997 meeting had to be the best-attended one ever! We had 33 Hams and at least seven non-Ham guests present. The meeting was opened by President Frank Haynes (W4NUA) and VP Al Wheeler (WB4JJJ), who had each Ham provide a self-introduction and give his/her year of first license. Tony Young (WA3YLO) took notes and reported that the 33 Amateurs had a total of 1685 years of being licensed—an average of over 50 years per person (including the non-member guests—the "kids" with only 20 or so years as Hams)!

This was a special commemoration meeting, honoring special achievements and remembering past members who now are silent keys. We presented certificates for many accomplishments, the most notable of which is reaching 75 years as an Amateur radio operator! Jack Kelleher (W4ZC), QCWA National President, was on hand to present these 75-year awards, which were mounted on hand-made walnut plaques.

Here is a list of those members for whom we had QCWA certificates:

75 Year Golden Anniversary certificates:
Jack Kingman, W4JT
Charles Stay, W4HE

65 Year Golden Anniversary certificates:
Bob Arrowsmith, K4JN
Howard Bullock, W4LBM
Wayne Cooper, AG4R
Jack Kelleher, W4ZC

60 Year Golden Anniversary certificates:
William M. Long, W4ZVZ
Floyd E. Martin, W4RW
Gordon Messmer, W4IQA
George A. Paul, W4QXO
J. H. Ziglinski, W4DIN

55 Year Golden Anniversary certificates:
Hal S. Christensen, W4VC
Wendell Dunning, K4YG
Robert H. Fasulkey, W3BBQ
Joe Herrmann, W4LBL

Century Club certificates (age + number of years in QCWA >= 100):

John Brogden, W3VDL
Howard Bullock, W4LBM
Robert Cannon, W4IGO
Wendell Dunning, K4YG
Irvin Hershowitz, W3HQG
Elmer Jones, K4EUX
Ken Joseph, W4SIG
William M. Long, W4ZVZ
John Swafford, W4HU

We gave a nicely produced and framed award for special service to Neighbor's Restaurant, our regular meeting place. Neighbor's has been good to us, and seems to be a place we all like to visit. We also gave a few "gag" awards, such as the one presented to Al Cammarata (W3AWU), our Treasurer, for being particularly adept at (repeatedly) installing an antenna (yes, the same antenna over and over again).

We also honored our silent keys by celebrating their lives and their contributions. Our records show that our chapter has lost 20 members since 1983. As we share anecdotes about these people, from Vic Clark in 1983 to Ethel Smith in 1997, we all realize the significant impact members of our chapter have had, not only in our tight circle of Amateur radio, but truly on the entire world. tnx es vy 73 de W4QCW

Of course, we couldn't do without the auction and related activities. These events brought in $93.50 for our (gleeful) Treasurer! There were some REAL bargains here!!

ar 73 de Jim, W3WV

Reminder - all submissions for

AUTO GALL

are due no later than the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication!!

Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137

Meetings: Third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, at 12:30 PM; Carper's Valley Golf Club, 1401 Millwood Pike (Route 50 East), Winchester, VA; reservations suggested.
Information: Perry F. Crabill, Jr., W3HQX; (540) 662-7526.
Mailing Address: 225 Milam Drive, Winchester, VA, 22602.
E-mail: pcrabill.visuallink.com

Fourteen members and guests attended the meeting of QCWA Chapter 137 at Carper's Valley Golf Club on Route 50 east of Winchester, Virginia on May 21, 1997. A social period at 12:30 PM was followed by a buffet luncheon. The meeting was conducted by Vice President John Kanode, in the absence of President Charles Anderson, NF3X.

John advised that two members were being dropped from the roster for non-payment of dues, leaving 29 current members. He presented Fred Holt, K2EZY, with a 65th Anniversary Award Certificate. Chapter members not present but entitled to certificates were Herbert Bigelow, W3AAA, also for 65 years, along with Charles Bennett, W8AB, 60 years, and Guy Black, W4PSJ, 50 years. Certificates for Herb and Charlie will be mailed to them. Guy became a Silent Key on April 10: his certificate had already been given to his family.

John then discussed recent ARRL and FCC happenings. There has been little response to the proposed restructuring of amateur radio in the US; the FCC has changed too much in recent years to worry about the hams. He turned the floor over to John Swafford, W4HU, for a brief discussion of QCWA matters. Of special interest was a revived proposal to establish an Associate level of non-voting membership for amateurs who have not met

the 25-year license requirement for full membership. It is expected that not all members will favor such an arrangement, and it may be tough to promote. It was turned down when it was first proposed some years ago. John was disappointed when this year's Armed Forces Day amateur activity publicity didn't mention CW at all.

QCWA National President Jack Kelleher, W4ZN, was to have been the featured speaker for this meeting but was unable to attend because of illness. In his stead John Kanode gave a report on the recent Dayton Hamfest. This was the first year that Dayton had an ARRL affiliation. In the year 2000 it will host the ARRL National Convention.

The weather was fantastic; it was warm, although a little windy. Friday morning the FBI arrested a vendor found selling cable TV decoder chips. A bit later, a number of agents displaying their FBI insignia went up and down the flea market aisles. By some coincidence, about 20 other vendors suddenly closed their operations and left, even though the hamfest was just getting under way.

Attendance was down somewhat from the peak attained several years ago; the change to a later date in May interferes with some family's plans for graduation-related activities. All forums were well attended; the ARRL session had questions raised about FCC rules enforcement and repeater problems.

No announcement was made about Gate 3 for vanity calls, but it may open on July 1. The FCC has come up with a scheme for self-assigned lxl call operations; you must identify with your regular call at least once an hour.

Adjournment was at 2:00 PM with the announcement that the next meeting would be at Carper's Valley on July 16, 1997.

Perry Crabill, W3HQX
Secretary/Treasurer

Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia.
Repeater: 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out.
Net: Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater.
Mailing: P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604.
President: Fred Wetzel (W4KRT).
Info: Irvin Barb, W4DHU, 955-1745.
Internet home page: http://www.w3ic.com/inet/svarc.

Greetings once again from the Shenandoah Valley! Spring has been quite a busy time for us. Since the last weekend in April, things have been quite busy.

At the May meetings, a replacement was chosen for our training coordinator. As many of you know, Guy Black (W4PSJ) our former training coordinator became a silent key in early May. Godfrey Miller, N8GM, who has been a member in good standing for many years has stepped forward to assume the duties of training coordinator. Thanks Godfrey for stepping in!

On Friday, May 16 SVARC members provided communications support for the Purple Ribbon Parade. This event was covered on WUSA's evening news. This event was a memorial ride for young Valerie Smelser, a child abuse victim murdered nearly a year ago. The organizers of the ride hoped to raise awareness of child abuse. Initially, over a thousand riders were supposed to participate but were prevented due to weather conditions in the midwest. Members who assisted in this effort were Jane Barb (KD4IET), Mike Collins (W4ACC), Bill Dunn (K4TIX), Don and Tina Jones (KB8WHW & KB8ZQM), Pete and Susie Reeder (KE4SVI & KF4ARN), Steve and Laura Stewart (KE4PMT and KE4QJT), Bill

Taylor (KE4SYY), and Fred and Janie Wetzel (W4KRT and KA4HOP). Fred Wetzel acted as communications coordinator.

May 16th and 17th brought a second event that required communications support. The Massanutten Mountain Trails 100 Mile Run, an event sponsored by the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club, tested our skills once again this year. This event covers a 100 mile circuit from Front Royal, toward Luray, down along the Shenandoah River, and southwards toward Edinburg and Woodstock. The course offered many communications challenges, including the usual hills and valleys, wildlife and bugs! Members who supported the event this year included Jane Barb (KD4IET), Dave Watterson (KE4SQX), Ed Nail (KE4SRB), Jim Hodson (KE4JJR), Brian Cochran (KE4NFK), Fred and Janie Wetzel (W4KRT and KA4HOP), Pete and Susie Reeder (KE4SVI & KF4ARN), and Ronnie and Allison Owens (KF4NDL and KF4NQR). Bo Tanner (KE4SQZ) acted as communications coordinator and was Bill Taylor (KE4SYY). This was a 24 hour event so these folks deserve a hearty round of applause! Several events have been scheduled for July and August. Members interested in assisting with Public Service events should contact Stan Monish (KD4HRJ) for more information.

73 'til next month de KE4QJT, Laura Stewart

Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 8:00 P.M. - Third Monday of the month except July and August at Sterling Community Center Annex, Church Rd. (Rt. 625) near Route 28, Sterling, VA.
Mailing: Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167.
Information: Bill Lorentz, KS4II, 703-444-6341 or via email KS4II@AOL.com.

The May 1997 SPARC meeting was attended by 19 people. Thanks to all who attended. Dan Gropper, KC4OCG and George Saunders, KR4MU gave an excellent presentation to the club on the SKYWARN system. We learned a great deal about the behind the scenes work that happens between Amateur Radio and the National Weather Service. I encourage anyone interested to contact Dan or George and become a SKYWARN volunteer.

Dick Maylott, W2YE, reported that the QSL Bureau has at least one letter manager position open. Anyone interested should give Dick a call. Ed Lockhart, K4GEL, reported that the generator is now in top running condition for Field Day. Thanks to Jim Rudd, KE4WLG and the Sterling Midas Muffler Shop for helping to quiet the generator with a new muffler.

73, Bill, KS4II

The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

Meetings: Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talk-in on 147.18.
Address: P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.
Web Page: HTTP://WWW.T-MARC.ORG.
Information: President - Owen Wormser K6LEW (703)684-7682 CC Chairman - Bill Conaway W8HNT, Pager (703)741-4251. Ombudsman - Jim Erickson K3LFO (410)549-1041, K3LFO@APEXGRP.COM.

Back in March we discussed proposed revisions to the 144 and 420 MHz band plans in our area. These revisions have now been adopted, essentially as proposed, so implementation is now beginning. We will be working closely with D.M.A.R.C. regarding the digital operations which will be affected by these band plan revisions.

The most visible changes will the be re-coordination of replexers from the 144.91-144.99 MHz segment of the 2-Meter band to the 15 kHz tertiary channels between 147.405 and 147.585 MHz. We'll do our best to keep adjacent-channel interference problems to known simplex operations in the 147 MHz simplex band to a minimum.

By the way, some of you might wonder "What is a replexer?" We coined the term several years ago to denote a cross-band repeater which uses a single receiving and transmitting frequency on one band. One application would permit stations using simplex on one band to be able to talk to stations who are using a repeater on another band. For example, simplex stations on 144.97 can talk and listen to other stations who are using the Metrovision ATV club's 420 MHz Amateur Television repeater.

On another note, we recently received a coordination application for the use of multiplex on one of the higher bands, to allow several different voice channels to occupy one RF carrier frequency. In answer to your first question, yes, it is legal! And it conserves spectrum. So our coordinating committee welcomed this proposal, and is in the process of coordinating several of these multiplexed links. We hope the idea might catch on!

Coordination-wise, a proposed new 52.83/53.83 repeater has been coordinated to N3OUT at Port Deposit in northeastern Maryland. And the Bowie Amateur Radio Federation's 442.500 repeater has been re-coordinated to its new location in Laurel, Md.

Finally, we note the passing of "Granny" Klink, W3AFV, at age 87. Although Granny was not a well-know FM'er, he was well-known among most of the "older" amateurs in this area as the chief engineer of the WTOP-AM-FM and TV stations for many years. He officially "retired" in 1978, but continued to make almost daily working appearances at the radio transmitter site almost right up until his passing. 73, Granny.

Enjoy the hamfest season, and don't procrastinate getting those new antennas up while the weather is pleasant!

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO

Vienna Wireless Society

Meeting: 7:30pm second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Vienna Community Center.
Nets: Pow-Wow nightly at 9 pm. on 28.444 MHz Slow speed code, nightly 8:30 pm on 28.390 MHz. Vienna Emergency Net, Wednesday 7:30 pm 146.085/146.685
Repeater: K4HTA 146.085 in/146.685 out
Information: Paul, AB4CY, (703) 560-2779
Mailing: P.O. Box 418 Vienna, VA. 22183

Recent Programs

In the last few months, we've had some excellent programs. On May 9, we were enlightened on the FCC Field Bureau's ability to do HF (and up) direction finding. Dave Larrabee explained the FCC's automated and computerized HF direction-finding system, which can quickly locate the source of an HF signal almost anywhere in the world. Charlie Magin then showed off the FCC's "Mobil Digital Direction Finding Unit", which looked like a 1990 Chevrolet Caprice Sedan. In fact, it was loaded with direction finding antennas built into the roof and not externally visible), receivers, computers and displays to quickly determine the origin of signals on any frequency from 200 kHz to 1GHz! Quite an impressive program!

On May 23, our own Mike Toia, K3MT, presented an interesting program on HF propagation. The ray-trace charts and ionosounder displays opened many eyes. Some of the more mysterious factors in HF propagation were made very clear.

Continued next page

ATTENTION MDC CLUB PRESIDENTS

The Maryland Emergency Phone Net and the Foundation For Amateur Radio are co-sponsoring a PICNIC on July 12, (Saturday), and YOU are invited! It will be held at the Anne Arundel Radio Club site in Davidsonville, Maryland, beginning at 11 AM. We have covered facilities and a clubhouse, so the picnic will be held, rain or shine.

In addition to yourselves, and MDC traffic handlers, we are also inviting Emergency Coordinators and RACES Radio Officers from all MDC jurisdictions. Our Section Emergency Coordinator, Mike Carr has sent invitations to them.

This is to be a social event, so no formal meetings are planned. However, MEPN, FAR ARRL representation and the Section Emergency Coordinator will be on hand to answer questions and to provide forms and current information. Food and soda are being provided by FAR and MEPN. Come and enjoy an eyeball with your associates that make Amateur Radio a positive factor in our communities. This IS a FREE LUNCH. However, we ask two things of you. To plan for enough food, we require RSVP from all attendees (see options below). Next, we ask everyone to wear a NAME TAG, (club or personal).

RSVP: E-MAIL to TONYY@JUNO.COM or QSL Card to Tony Young, WA3YLO - 12016 Long Ridge Lane. Bowie MD 20715. Phone (301) 262-1917.

DIRECTIONS: From the NORTH, EAST or WEST. Take Route 50 and exit South onto Route 424 (Davidsonville Road). Go about 4 miles to Route 214 and turn RIGHT. Go WEST about 1 mile and turn LEFT on Queen Anne Bridge Road (opposite a school). The club site is about ONE mile on your LEFT. It is an old NIKE site. Enter through the gate on your LEFT. From the SOUTH. Take Route 301 or Route 2 North to Route 214. From Route 2 turn left onto Route 214 and pass Route 424, go about 1 mile and turn Left. (see above). From Route 301 turn right on Route 214 and go 3/4 miles or so. You will cross a metal bridge into Anne Arundel County. Then look for Queen Anne Bridge Road. It will be a RIGHT turn for you (see above). TALK-IN 147.105 (W3VPR and 146.52 when closer it. SEE YA!!

Tony, WA3YLO

Vienna Wireless, from previous page

Future Programs

Our program chairman, Mike, AE4R has an impressive and imaginative set of programs lined up for us in the next few months. Comming up in July is a pair of programs from the Department of Defense. First, a program on the U.S. Army's propagation prediction efforts (July 11), and on July 25, a program on the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Nets, Repeaters and the VWS

A reminder that the VWS Repeaters are at 146.685(-) and 448.375(-); and that the VWS has active nets at 28.390 (CW) at 8:30 pm daily, and 28.444 (SSB) at 9:00 pm daily, and the Vienna Emergency net meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 on the 2m repeater. Our Packet BBS is on 145.730 under the club call, K4HTA.

73, Kerry WA4BQM

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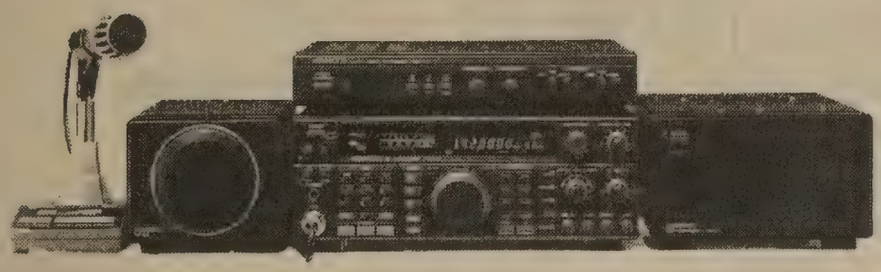

SHACK SALES

Non-commercial advertising of Amateur associated equipment is available to subscribers of *Auto-Call* at the rate of **5** cents per word with a **$2.00 minimum**. Commercial vendors and non-subscriber rate is 17 cents per word with a $5.50 (1 inch) minimum. Special headings or special spacing (e.g. one item per line) may be used but such ads will be charged at the column inch rate.

Estate sales for Widows assistance handled by a FAR club will be published without cost.

Your full name and address must be provided with each ad but need not be published. No ads will be accepted over the telephone and all ads must be prepaid. Ads that will be running for longer than 1 month must be accompanied by a letter stating the length that the ad is to be run. Since no effort is made to investigate advertisers, no warranty can be implied. Copy MUST be received by the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication.Send all commercial and non-commercial advertising and Shack Sales to:

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(301) 855-0198

FOR SALE: Popular Science 42 issues mix months years Dec 65 to Dec 69, $10. Popular Mechanics 30 issues mix years Sep 66 to May 80, $7. Mechanix Illustrated Jan, Feb, Oct, 70, $1. QST 1979 to 1996, $28.Will take offers. Greg, KA3DBG (301) 946-6460, Rockville. [07/97]

FOR SALE: Microphone, Like New (used only 4 months by non-smoker); Unidirectional highball by Shure; dual impedance, 80-15,000 Hz, 16 ft. Cable with 1/4" plug (adaptable to XLR). Includes swivel stand adapter, zippered bag, and windscreen. Original value: $63; want $35 OBO. Ted, N4XX (703) 780-6397. [08/97]

WANTED: KENWOOD SS RIG Would like to replace my trusty 520-SE with a newer SS model. Prefer to buy from a fellow Auto-Call ham. Warren, AA4BE (703) 941-7459, Work: (202) 287-2057 [08/97]

FOR SALE: Ten-Tec Scout with 20M, 30M, and 40M modules (others available from Ten-Tec), noise blanketer, hand microphone, and lightweight switching power supply. Excellent condition; all for $600 OBO. Leave message for John at (703) 765-7027 or at taxman@cq.cqi.com. [08/97]

FOR SALE: Roof tower CR-18, 6 ft high, good condition, $40.00, manual. Medium duty rotor w/ control. box, 75' cable included. Good condition, $30.00, manual. R4 vertical 20, 15, 12, 10 meter in good condition, $30.00. manual. Call George, KD4FF, (703) 494-4121 or write: George Hunt, P.O. Box 1843, Centreville, VA 20122. [07/97]

FOR SALE: QST - 55 years of QST! 1944 through 1995 complete in mint condition. plus 51 pre '44 issues in good condition. Best offer. W3EE, Towson, MD. (410) 828-7884. [07/97]

FOR SALE: ICOM-706 $800, YAESU FT-900 $800, SGC-230 Smartuner $350, SGC QMS Antenna Coupler System $900, JPS ANC4 $125, JPSNIR12 $225, MFJ-949 Antenna tuner $75, MFJ-493 Memory Keyer $75, Autek Research Wattmeter WM1 $75, Many Hustler Mobile resonators and masts 80m thru 10m - list on request. Greg (W5ZNT) Phone 703-938-1329, email gregtybe@erols.com. [07/97]

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Mid-Atlantic Radio Club. Become a part of one of the country's fastest growing vintage radio clubs. The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club is an active group of radio collectors, restorers and historians. For a sample newsletter, write to Jay Kiessling, Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club, P.O. Box 67, Upperco, MD 21155. (410) 239-1818. [SWP]

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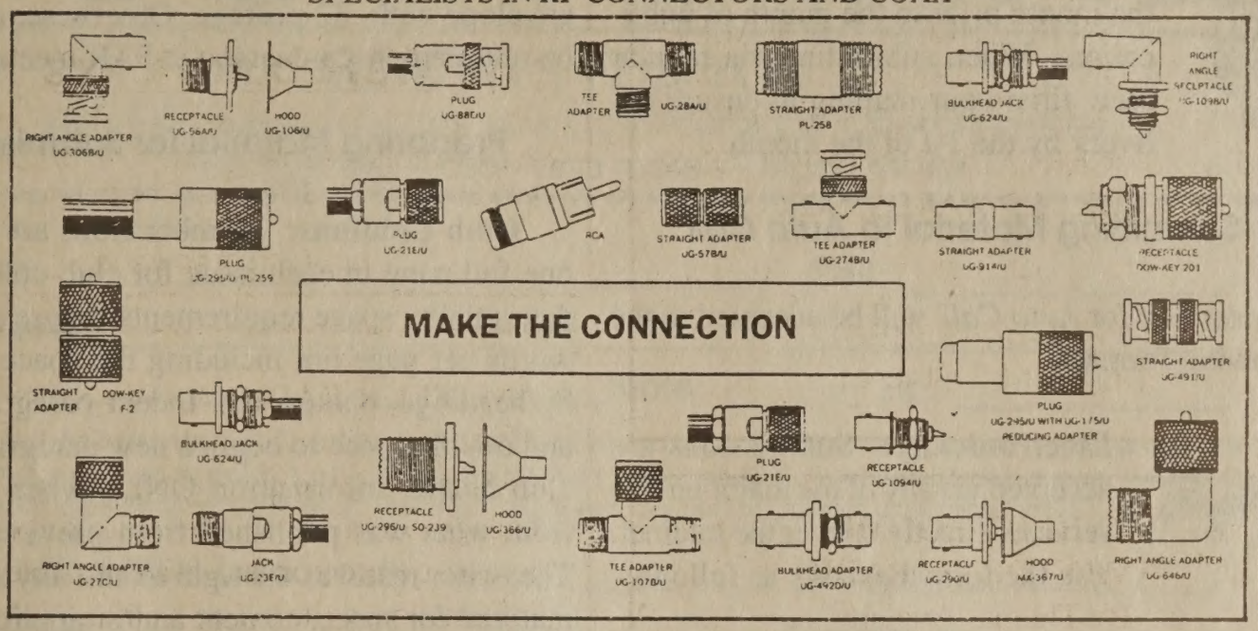

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Deadline: The deadline for ALL submissions to *Auto Call* is the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. When submitting via regular mail, time your mailing to ensure delivery by the 1st of the month.

Submitting Material to *Auto Call*

Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:

Electronically: Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

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America On Line - JohnQueen
AppleLink - johnqueen@aol.com@internet#
BitNet - johnqueen%aol.com@cunyvm
CompuServe - INTERNET:johnqueen@aol.com
Connect - johnqueen@aol.com
Delphi - internet"johnqueen@aol.com"
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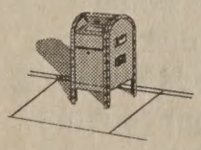

Regular Mail: Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that your printed material is dark enough for scanning.

Computer Disk: Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readibility of your computer files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

Preparing Material for Submission

Club Columns: Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

Hamfests/Events: Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

Photographs: The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

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Kay C. Craigie, WT3P
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Antietam PGWA	2 BARC Montgomery	3 Anne Arundel	4 Mobileers Shenandoah	5 Green Mtn.
6	7 DOSARC	8 Leisure Frederick Woodbridge	9 **FAR - VA** HEMARC Exp Post	10 **MADRAS** Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon	11 VOA Vienna So. Maryland Alexandria	12 North Point
13 Metro Comm	14 Carroll Co.	15 Antietam Arlington	16 BARC/QCWA Montgomery Goddard	17 Anne Arundel	18 Shenandoah	19 Capital City QCWA 91
20	21 OVHA Sterling Park	22 Columbia	23 Laurel Exp Post Moose	24 MADRAS St. Mary's	25 Central MD Vienna	26
27 Adventist	28 Green Mtn. T-MARC	29	30 Carroll Co.	31		

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